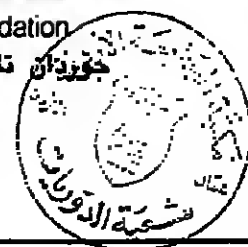


Gunmen kill police detective in Gaza

GAZA (AP) — Masked gunmen shot dead a Palestinian police detective in the Gaza Strip Sunday, and a Palestinian farmer was killed in a clash with police who ordered his family evicted. Witnesses said Capt. Amer Salah, 32, was gunned down in front of his home in Gaza City's Shati Refugee Camp. Mr. Salah, a PLO-backed leader in the camp during the Palestinian uprising against Israeli rule, joined the police soon after Gaza won self-rule in May 1994. It was the second time in eight days unknown gunmen have killed a Palestinian policeman in Gaza. Police launched searches for the gunmen. They have still not captured the three gunmen who shot dead a policeman guarding the house of Gaza's chief civil judge on July 15. Later Sunday, Palestinian police clashed with farmers in the village of Beit Lahia in the northern Gaza Strip when they ordered them to vacate government land they had squatted on seven years ago. Witnesses and police said the farmers attacked the police with axes and sticks, severely beating an officer. Shots were fired and Musad Sabah, 26, was hit in the head and died, they said. It was not clear who fired the shots. Police said they confiscated an assault rifle.

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Sharif Zeid reaffirms fairness of municipal polls

Government working to ensure success of economic summit Premier warns opposition not to 'cross the limits'

By Abdullah Hasanat
 Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — The Prime Minister Sharif Zeid Ben Shaker Sunday brushed aside Islamist accusations that the government rigged the July 11 municipal elections and challenged them to go to court if they can prove their allegations. "The government did not rig the elections nor did it manipulate them in any way," Sharif Zeid asserted during a meeting with local editors and columnists. "If it (The Islamic Action Front) has any proof, let it go to the courts as I said at the time" of the elections. "The Prime Minister also warned the Islamists, who lead opposition against normal relations with Israel, not to cross the limits into 'seditious agitation.' "We will not allow anyone to agitate the people into sedition," Sharif Zeid warned. The government will not force anyone to normalise or trade with Israel. Likewise, the government will not tolerate seditious agitation against the regime. The Prime Minister, who

was addressing chief editors and columnists during a luncheon he hosted at the Inter-Continental Hotel, said that "normalisation of relations with Israel is progressing at a good pace, although there are some outstanding issues." He did not elaborate. Sharif Zeid admitted that the government performance was below his expectations and that "There is room for improvement. However, he said that speculations that the government lacked coordination among its members were exaggerated. "There is coordination and we have a good economic team and we are working around the clock to prepare for MENA." He did not rule out a reshuffle of his cabinet but hinted such reshuffle might only come after the current extraordinary session of Parliament ends in October. "This is a coalition government, like my former government. I brought 17 deputies in to ensure a working relationship with the (Lower) House (of Parliament)," he said. Asked if he would include Islamists in any fu-

ture reshuffle, Sharif Zeid said: "There is no inclination to bring in the Islamists." During the two-hour encounter with the journalists, Sharif Zeid revealed that his government has formulated a number of laws that would liberalise the economy and create the right atmosphere for investment in preparation for the Middle East and North African (MENA) Economic Summit that will be held in Amman in October. He said the government had discussed the package extensively with the private sector. Asked whether he thought the draft laws would clear both Houses of Parliament before the extraordinary session ends in October, the prime minister jokingly said: "Do you want to bet?" The prime minister, however, warned against exaggerated expectations from the summit. "I myself am optimistic," he said. "But I warn against over-optimism. We want the conference to benefit the whole region." Sharif Zeid said he thought the Jordanian economy was performing very



Sharif Zeid Ben Shaker

well despite "many voices of complaint." "Inflation in the past six months was only 0.2 per cent higher than in the first six months of 1994," he said. "All economic indicators are showing a healthy trend." The prime minister, however, ruled out any wage increases at the time being. The prime minister noted with satisfaction the U.S. Congress endorsement of the decision to write off \$750 million of debt to the U.S.

The prime minister characterised relations with Syria as "normal" and with Egypt as "good," saying both could be improved. He described Foreign Minister Abdul Karim Kabariti's visit to Riyadh early this month and the talks Mr. Kabariti held with Saudi leaders as "successful" and "warm." "We expect relations to improve with the rest of the Gulf countries, but not necessarily immediately

(Continued on page 7)

West reinforces troops in Sarajevo

Heavy fighting reported around Zepa, Bihac

SARAJEVO (Agencies) — British artillery and infantry and French tanks headed for the besieged city of Sarajevo on Sunday to reinforce U.N. peacekeepers under Serb attack.

The units of the U.N. Rapid Reaction Force (RRF) based in central Bosnia were expected to arrive on Mount Igman, west of the city, by last light on Sunday where they will take up their positions overlooking Bosnia's capital, U.N. officials said. The deployment was described by a U.N. spokesman as a "turning point" for the U.N. mission and followed overnight attacks by Serb forces on a U.N. food convoy and base in which two French soldiers were killed and three wounded.

French President Jacques Chirac said his troops would not cave in to Serb military pressure in Bosnia and would strike back if attacked in Sarajevo. "The Serbs had better understand that we won't give in," Mr. Chirac said during a visit to Senegal. "I want to say right away that the instructions given are to reinforce our positions around Sarajevo with the Rapid Reaction Force and shoot back systematically, as we did last night... if we are attacked again," Mr. Chirac

Bosnian premier calls King, H.M. says war must end

AMMAN (Petra) — His Majesty King Hussein Sunday received a phone call from Bosnian Prime Minister Haris Silajdzic who informed him that the enclaves of Bihac and Zepa have been subjected to large-scale attacks and intensive shelling by the Serbian forces. Mr. Silajdzic asked King Hussein to exert efforts to help end these attacks on the U.N.-declared "safe-havens." King Hussein contacted the ambassadors of the five Security Council permanent members in Amman, and reiterated Jordan's condemnation of the Serbian aggression. The King underlined the importance of preserving the territorial integrity of Bosnia-Herzegovina and the need to ensure the safety and security of its people in accordance with international legitimacy. The King also emphasised the need to confront the Serbs' aggression and back the Bosnian people's just struggle.

U.N. spokesman Major Myriam Souchak said the reinforcements comprised at least 320 British soldiers, a company of French light tanks and French engineers. The British contingent includes two batteries of the 19th Field Regiment of Royal Artillery with 12 105mm light guns that can hurl a 16-km shell 16 km. One infantry company of the Devon and Dorset Regiment, with 16 warrior armoured fighting vehicles was also on its way. "Their mission is to re-

spond to attacks against Sarajevo," said U.N. spokesman Lieutenant-Colonel Chris Vernon. Separatist Serbs have stepped up their attacks on Sarajevo and other U.N. "safe areas" despite warnings from Western governments on Friday that further aggression against Muslim enclaves would be met with a decisive military response. At a crisis meeting of 16 nations in London, Britain, France and the United States threatened military action. (Continued on page 7)

Kabariti meets Japanese official

AMMAN (Petra) — Foreign Minister Abdul Karim Al Kabariti Sunday reviewed with the Japanese Permanent Representative to the United Nations Hishahi Owada bilateral relations between Jordan and Japan, in addition to regional and international issues. Mr. Kabariti voiced Jordan's appreciation of Japan's positive and constructive role in the multi-lateral peace talks. The Foreign Minister also lauded Japan's support for the international efforts aimed at establishing a just and lasting peace in the region. Mr. Owada is currently in Amman to attend the two-day meetings of the Consultative Committee of the United Nations University UNU's Leadership academy, which started here today under the chairmanship of Her Majesty Queen Noor Al Hussein.

House approves environment law

AMMAN (Petra) — The Lower House of Parliament Sunday approved the 1994 draft law on the protection of environment, after making some amendments to it.

Palestinian police free 11 PFLP activists

GAZA (AFP) — Palestinian police have released 11 Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine (PFLP) activists arrested after the murder of two Israeli hikers, the militant group said Sunday. "The 11 arrested leaders have all been freed, five on Saturday and the others on Sunday," Yunes Al Jaru, a senior official of the militant group led by George Habash, told AFP.

Rabin criticised on settlers policy

TEL AVIV (AFP) — Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin on Sunday faced criticism within his cabinet for not dealing more firmly with settlers in the occupied West Bank opposed to the peace deal with the PLO. But he said the government had to act prudently to avoid worsening the situation, his office said.

Israel, PLO say no hope of deal by Tuesday

NEW ZEALAND, Israel (Agencies) — Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin and Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) negotiators on Sunday ruled out reaching agreement by a July 25 deadline on extending Palestinian self-rule, as both sides resumed talks near the Dead Sea. "In the coming days, and even in the coming weeks, there will not be a signing of an accord with the Palestinians for the extension of autonomy in the West Bank," Mr. Rabin said on a military radio station. The Palestinians expressed the same scepticism, with their chief negotiator, Ahmad Qouriea, gloomily predicting it "may be" months before an agreement is sealed. "Certainly between us and an agreement there remains a period that is not short," Mr. Qouriea, who is also the Palestinian economy minister, told the Arabic daily Ashraq Al Awasat. The 150 negotiators who broke off marathon talks on Friday after five days of intense meetings, resumed

their discussions at the Hotel Lot in New Zeahor on the Israeli banks of the Dead Sea. "We have come here to reach an accord and we are going to do our best to get there this week," Palestinian negotiator Hassan Asfur told AFP here. Mr. Qouriea called for more flexibility from the Israelis. "If the Israeli side presents reasonable and logical positions during talks perhaps we will sign soon. In any case it will not be next Tuesday," he said. The two sides set a July 25 deadline to reach an accord on the second phase of autonomy, including an Israeli army redeployment on the occupied West Bank, elections to a self-rule council and a transfer of civil powers. It is the second deadline this month after negotiators failed to nail down an accord by the earlier July 1 target date. "If the Israelis want, we can make progress and conclude a deal tomorrow," Palestinian negotiator Bassem Al Masri said in Newe

Zohat. But a foreign ministry official said: "The main difficulty is that the Palestinians are continually changing their positions." "What has been agreed is modified, at the last minute and divergences within the leadership of the Palestinian Authority are preventing progress." He also acknowledged, however, that the Israelis were offering the Palestinians "much less than they were hoping for, on the issues of territory, water and security." Water remains a main obstacle, along with a timetable for an Israeli military pullback from the towns of Ramallah, Bethlehem as well as Hebron, where 400 settlers live among 120,000 Palestinians. Mr. Qouriea said the issue of water sharing was the subject of "difficult negotiations. The Israelis gave several ideas but we did not arrive at anything specific." He said a special committee on water would be formed "to find reasonable

compromises," without giving further details. Earlier, Israeli Foreign Minister Shimon Peres shed doubt on Palestinian willingness to sign an accord at the earliest, saying a delay "would be a mistake" on the PLO's part. "It is a game of patience which we are used to. At the last minute each party tries to gain as much as they can," he told Israeli Television. "Israel has creative solutions on the remaining differences and will keep them for the last phase of the talks." Foreign Ministry Director General Uri Savir told the daily Haaretz that Israel would "refuse to speed up artificially the talks" and risk damaging its interests. "We are in the final phase and now the true battle is starting," he said. The two countries have predicted that an eventual accord will be signed in Washington, which hosted the landmark for the signing of the 1993 Declaration of Principles that led to the launch of self-rule. Meanwhile, the Jerusalem Post Sunday quoted Israeli

officials as saying that Israel has agreed to let Palestinian police be deployed in all 460 Palestinian villages on the West Bank after an Israeli troop pullback. "We will allow the Palestinians to put blue police (civilians) in all the 460 villages," one unnamed senior official told the English-language daily. "The blue police will ensure that Palestinians in these villages will provide law enforcement for the administrative authority. They will deal with only such issues as burglaries." Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin had earlier said he would not allow Palestinian police to be deployed in some villages such as around Jerusalem, those along the "Green Line" separating the West Bank from Israel and those in the Jordan Valley. There was no comment available from his office Sunday. Mr. Rabin had hinted he intended to call for the areas to be annexed to Israel in negotiations on the territories final status due to begin in May 1996.

Nabulsi says Petra committee following sound procedures

AMMAN (J.T.) — The Governor of the Central Bank of Jordan (CBJ) Mohammad Saeed Nabulsi Sunday reiterated that a committee entrusted with the liquidation of the Petra Bank was following sound procedures and was ready to present Parliament with a detailed report and full information clarifying any point that could be raised by Parliament. Speaking after paying a visit to the Speaker of the Lower House of Parliament Saad Hayel Srour with whom he discussed questions related to Parliament's debate of the Petra Bank question, Dr. Nabulsi denied that the CBJ or any other party was trying to prevent Parliament Member Fawaz Zoubi, who had earlier raised the question in Parliament, from acquiring information collected by the liquidation committee. One of the charges made by Mr. Zoubi was that the committee sold shares held by Petra Bank in the Cairo Amman Bank for a price lower than the market price.

Last week, Dr. Nabulsi told the Jordan Times in an interview that actions taken by the liquidation committee had the approval of the board of governors of the CBJ and were in line with the broad objective of liquidating Petra Bank while collecting the maximum amount possible from debtors. Dr. Nabulsi said books of accounts of the government-appointed liquidation committee were open for inspection. In 1989, an Economic Security Committee took over Petra Bank after gross irregularities surfaced and the bank defaulted on its obligations to the Central Bank. It ordered the bank to be liquidated through a special committee supervised and steered by the CBJ. Mr. Nabulsi's visit to parliament came in the wake of a statement by Mr. Srour, in which he said the Parliament was still awaiting a number of documents connected with the Petra Bank to be provided by the government.

Baghdad destroys hi-tech machines, prepares Iraqis for 'showdown' with West

MANAMA, Bahrain (AP) — U.N. weapons inspectors returned Sunday from Baghdad, where they supervised the dismantling of machines which could have been used to produce ballistic missile parts. By disabling the missile equipment, Iraq has taken another step toward meeting U.N. conditions for easing a five-year-old economic blockade stifling the country's economy. A spokesman for the United Nations Special Commission, which has been supervising the elimination of Iraq's non-conventional weapons, said in New York Thursday that the Iraqis had begun disabling high-precision machine tools that could manufacture metal missile components. The spokesman, Tim Trevan, said the task would be completed in three days. U.N. sources in Bahrain, the regional headquarters of

UNSCOM, confirmed Sunday that the all five machines had been disabled, but would give no details. They spoke on condition of strict anonymity. The U.N. team, which travelled to Baghdad July 17, was led by John Sptzel, an American biological weapons expert. The experts also held talks in Baghdad on a clandestine biological weapons programme the last remaining obstacle in UNSCOM's efforts to eradicate Iraq's weapons of mass destruction. UNSCOM has demanded a detailed report on Iraq's biological weapons programme, pressing the Baghdad government for information on 17 tonnes of growth material which could be used to develop germ warfare. U.N. experts had said that Iraq's stock of chemical weapons and a nuclear programme have long been de-

troyed and that the missile equipment and the biological programmes were the last stumbling blocks. Baghdad has threatened to halt further cooperation with UNSCOM if its next report to the Security Council was not favourable and if no steps were taken to ease the trade embargo, imposed after Iraq invaded Kuwait on Aug. 2, 1990. However, the United States and Britain have said the sanctions should remain in place until Iraq meets other U.N. demands such as improving its human rights record and releasing over 600 prisoners Kuwait claims the Iraqis still hold. Showdown Iraq Sunday warned its people of a possible "showdown" with the West over an end to the sanctions. The warning in the official

Baghdad Observer newspaper came less than a week after Iraq gave the U.N. Special Commission (UNSCOM) until the end of August to finish its work. The newspaper said Iraq was growing weary of trying to satisfy UNSCOM's demands on disarmament which it complained were always changing under U.S. pressure. It added the stage was set for confrontation since Iraqis have lost so much of what they have achieved "with great toil and enormous sacrifice" and since "they have nothing to lose if they were to stop cooperation" with UNSCOM. Iraqis should prepare for "any possible showdown with the despot who are responsible for all their suffering and their agony," the newspaper said. It recalled a July 17 warning that Iraq would stop

cooperating with the United Nations if sanctions were not lifted. Two days later Iraqi Foreign Minister Mohammad Said Al Sahaf gave UNSCOM an August ultimatum. Mr. Al Sahaf said in Qatar on Sunday that Baghdad was "cooperating" with the U.N. on its germ warfare programme and "will ask for an end to the embargo" once it has given the required information, he said. Meanwhile Mr. Al Sahaf left Qatar for Morocco where he will rally support for Iraq's campaign end the sanctions. Itaq "is contacting its brothers... to get their cooperation and solidarity with Iraq and the Iraqi people to have the sanctions lifted," he said when asked about the purpose of his visit to Morocco. Mr. Al Sahaf said he discussed in meetings with Qatari officials Baghdad's efforts for the lifting of U.N. sanctions.

Jordan urges Greece to help end Bosnian crisis

AMMAN (AP) — Jordan urged Greece on Sunday to use its good offices with Serbia to end attacks on Bosnian Muslims in the former Yugoslavia. The Jordanian request was made by Foreign Minister Abdul Karim Kabariti during a two-hour meeting with his visiting Greek counterpart, Karlos Papoulis. "We expressed the desire that Greece play a special role in undertaking practical and urgent measures to alleviate the suffering of the Bosnian people and put an end to the Serbian aggression on Bosnia and its people," Mr. Kabariti told reporters after meeting Mr. Papoulis. He said Jordan "understands that Greece has special ties with Serbia" — both adhere to the Orth-

odox Christian faith — and that the Kingdom hopes that Athens will use these ties to end the Bosnian crisis. Jordan, which maintains more than 3,200 peacekeepers in the U.N. force in former Yugoslavia, has threatened to pull out its troops if fighting continues in Bosnia-Herzegovina. His Majesty King Hussein has been pressing for an end to the crisis in Bosnia. On Friday, he said he would join peacekeepers in the former Yugoslavia to underline growing frustration with the continued fighting in Bosnia and the United Nations' failure to bring it to a halt. Mr. Papoulis, who arrived here from Lebanon (Continued on page 7)

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Queen meeting

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The UNU

national training for people with disabled leadership potential in business, politics, religion, arts and culture. In December, the Council of the UNU approved the proposal of Jamaican prime minister Sir Michael Manley to name Salam Majali, the UN/UNAIDS representative in Africa, as the son of the Advisory Committee member. Sunday said the committee members thought that the academy would play an important role in the development of disabled and open-minded leaders. The UNU, established

with its headquarters in Tokyo, and research training facilities; the world, was at the UN General Assembly to 'promote' interdisciplinary scholarly cooperation and undertake problems of multi-disciplinary on urgent global concerns. Among the people attending the meeting were the Queen were Special Representative of UN Secretary-General K. J. Adam Majali, Sena Sharaf, Vice Chair

Government

AMMAN (Petra) — The Department of Statistics Sunday started a month survey of all industrial businesses in various governorates in Jordan. The department has recruited 16 trained and qualified teams to six persons each to conduct the survey.

Announcing the start of the survey, Deputy Director General Hadi Alaween said that the survey would cover businesses in all governorates from mines and stone quarries to energy generating installations, industrial plants, services and maintenance and repair work in accordance with the

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Her Majesty Queen Noor Sunday chairs a meeting of the Advisory Committee of the United Nations University International Leadership Academy (photo by Crystal)

Queen chairs Advisory Committee meeting of U.N. University academy

AMMAN (J.T.) — The first of a two-day meeting of the Advisory Committee of the United Nations University's International Leadership Academy (UNU/ILA) began Sunday at Al Ma'wa Palace, according to a Royal Court statement.

The UNU/ILA is an international training programme for people with demonstrated leadership potential in business, political science, religion, arts and culture.

In December 1994, the Council of UNU accepted the proposal of Jordan's former prime minister, Abdul Salam Majali, to establish the UNU/ILA in Amman.

Queen Noor, the chairperson of the Advisory Committee, Sunday welcomed the committee members saying that the academy will play an important role in the development of competent and open-minded future leaders.

UNU, established in 1973 with its headquarters in Tokyo, and research and training facilities throughout the world, was created by the UN General Assembly to "promote international scholarly cooperation and undertake problem-oriented multi-disciplinary research on urgent global concerns."

Among the people attending the meeting with the Queen were Special Advisor to the Rector of UNU Abdul Salam Majali, Senator Leila Sharaif, Vice Chairperson of the Advisory Committee and Japanese Ambassador to the United Nations Hisashi Owada. Director of UNU/ILA Andres Pastranas and member of the Advisory Committee Bartolome Mitre, the statement said.

After the meeting, Queen Noor attended the closing session of the Arab Children's Congress entitled "Solidarity and Tolerance in Arab Culture," at the Royal Cultural Centre.

The Congress was held in cooperation with United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organisation (UNESCO) and coincided with UNESCO's 50th anniversary and its International Culture of Peace Festivals for Children.

The Queen distributed gifts and certificates to 150 delegates, workshop leaders and other participants in the congress and toured the children's exhibitions of stamps, books, handicrafts, paintings, murals and the "Tree of Tolerance" sculpture, which will be shown at the 1995 UNESCO Exhibition in Paris.

The children presented 22 recommendations on human and child rights, resolution of conflict and ethnic violence, the environment and intercultural exchange.

Queen Noor said she hoped that heads of state and governments will take heed of the children's recommendations and she emphasised the importance of developing national strategies that involve children as future leaders in global and national issues.

President of the Executive Committee of the Noor Al Hussein Foundation In'am Mufit accompanied Queen Noor to the event.

Later Queen Noor graduated the first class of Al Isra' University (AU) where she distributed diplomas and awards to the students.

In his speech, AU President Abd Al Bari Durra said that the university plans to incorporate new specialties in the curriculum, such as agriculture, nursing and hotel management, which will meet Jordan's needs, and announced the establishment of the Noor Al Hussein Scholarship for two outstanding students.

Al Isra' University, established in 1991, has a diverse student body from the Middle East, Africa, India and Guinea. Its educational curriculum includes law, pharmacology, medical sciences and analysis, civil engineering, basic sciences, accounting, businesses administration, finance, computer sciences, languages and child education.

Mrs. Mufit accompanied Queen Noor to the ceremony.

Sharif Zeid, Hussein discuss status of Jerusalem

AMMAN (J.T.) — Faisal Hussein, the minister in charge of the Jerusalem portfolio in the Palestine National Authority (PNA), Sunday met with Prime Minister Sharif Zeid Ben Shaker and Foreign Minister Abdul Karim Kabari to discuss progress in the Palestinian-Israeli negotiations over the status of the Arab sector of the city of Jerusalem.

We reviewed the political developments concerning the city, Israel's measures there and the situation surrounding Al Aqsa Mosque and the other holy shrines, Mr. Hussein said.

The PNA is attempting to assert Palestinian rights in the Arab city and the right of its citizens to vote in the Palestinian elections, and is insisting that the Arab city is part of the territories occupied by Israel in the 1967 war and therefore UN Security Council resolution 242, applies to it as well, Mr. Hussein said.

We are also discussing the nature of the future relationship between the western and eastern sectors of the city under a final settlement, Mr. Hussein said.

The Jordan News Agency, Petra, said the Prime Minister reiterated Jordan's support for the Palestinian stand and said he hoped that the Israelis and the Palestinians would move swiftly to the final phase of the negotiations and achieve a final settlement.

Sharif Zeid also expressed hope that the Jordanian and Palestinian sides would implement all the agreements they had signed in the best interest of both their peoples.

Reaffirming the importance of Jerusalem to Jordan and the Arab World, Sharif Zeid also expressed hope that Jerusalem will serve as a symbol of peace and at the same time serve as the capital of an independent state of Palestine.

For his part Mr. Hussein voiced the Palestinian people's appreciation of the Jordanian government for backing all endeavours to safeguard the holy shrines and to help the Palestinians regain their rights.

Mr. Hussein and Mr. Kabari earlier met to discuss bilateral relations and coordination between the PNA and Jordan in all matters relevant to the city of Jerusalem and the protection of the holy sites.



Prime Minister Sharif Zeid Ben Shaker Sunday meets with visiting PNA official Faisal Hussein to discuss issues pertaining to the situation in Jerusalem (Petra photo)

Lower penalties being considered in bounced cheque cases

By Ramadan Rawabdeh
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — Justice Minister Hisham Tell Sunday said amendments to the penal code are being considered, particularly penalties for issuing cheques with insufficient funds, as well as penalties for fraud, bribery and building contracting violations.

In a statement to the Jordan Times and Al Ra'i dailies, the minister said that the amendments would have such cases referred from the Court of First Instance (which usually dealt with these cases) to the Peace Court and that the penalty for issued cheques without sufficient funds would be lowered to imprisonment between one month and two years plus a fine of JD 10.

Currently the penalty for bouncing a cheque is imprisonment for four months to three years plus a JD 50 to JD 100 fine.

Mr. Tell said that the ministry discovered that in most cases involving bounced cheques many people accepted the cheques with the full knowledge that the persons who issued them had no funds to cover them expecting to use them as a lever to pressure the debtor by threatening to sue them.

He said legislation in other Arab countries penalties are also imposed on those who accept such cheques knowing the signator is unable to honor his debt.

Commenting on the proposed amendment, economist Faded Faneek said that the courts have been flooded with cases involving bounced cheques.

Last year 430,000 such cheques were brought to court worth JD 372 million, according to Dr. Faneek. He said that since the start of year bounced cheques were reported to run an average of 38,000 cheques worth JD 38 million each month. Dr. Faneek said that he did not believe the situation reflected an economic recession in the country because this phenomenon has been the case over the past decades, but added that the rate increased markedly in 1994.



Hisham Tell

Technical skills project hosts productive sector forum

AMMAN (J.T.) — The Economic Development through Technical Skills (EDTS) Project, whose offices were officially opened earlier this month by Her Royal Highness Princess Sarvaah, Sunday sponsored the initial consultation, "Building Bridges for the Future," between senior personnel of the Ministry of Higher Education and members of the Jordanian productive sector at the InterContinental Hotel in Amman, according to an EDTS statement.

At the forum, senior representatives of Jordanian industry and technical and vocational education and training (TVET) met to discuss the current status of the two courses selected as pilots for a new and innovative model of TVET at the community college level and to plan for future collaboration in programme design and implementation.

The forum, co-chaired by Secretary General of the Ministry of Higher Education Ahmad Husban and Zaki Ayoubi, chairman of the Chamber of Industry's Sectoral Committee for Wood Industries and member of the Sectoral Committee for Trade preparing for the Amman Economic Summit, was the first in a series of such meetings intended to encourage the active involvement of the productive sector in the design and delivery of the pilot community college programmes included in the EDTS Project, the statement said.

The EDTS Project is a four-year (Canadian) \$6 million government of Canada - government of Jordan partnership funded through the Canadian International Development Agency (CIDA) and managed by the Association of Canadian Community Colleges (ACCC) intended to strengthen the quality of technical education offered in community colleges and the Vocational Training Corporation (VTC).

EDTS Project Director Nancy George explained that in the Canadian model, community colleges have curriculum advisory committees for virtually all programmes which ensure that the prospective employers of the college graduates are actively involved in keeping programmes offered relevant and up-to-date.

One important component of the EDTS Project, according to Dr. George, is to twin the two pilot Jordanian programmes with similar programmes in two Canadian community colleges to determine whether the Canadian model can benefit the TVET system in Jordan.

As a first step, she said, "...the Productive Sector Forum offered companies who are prospective employers of the graduates of the two pilot programmes an opportunity to share their ideas with the educational establishment in the Ministry of Higher Education. It is critical that educators see themselves as the supply side of a supply/demand dynamic and begin to build a constructive ongoing dialogue with their clientele."

Thirty-five companies from the private and public sectors were invited to participate in the forum, the statement said.

The EDTS Project is housed at the National Centre for Human Resources Development (NCHRD), which has been charged with overseeing the restructuring of the entire TVET system in Jordan.

During the EDTS Project, more than 40 advisers from the Canadian community college system will assist Jordanian TVET institutions with planning, policy formulation, curriculum development and management to strengthen the design and delivery of TVET, the statement said.

Government starts 3-month survey of industries

AMMAN (Petra) — The Department of Statistics Sunday started a three-month survey of all industrial businesses in various governorates in Jordan and said it has recruited 16 trained and qualified teams of four to six persons each to conduct the survey.

Announcing the start of the survey Department Director General Abdul Hadi Alaween said it will cover businesses ranging from mines and stone quarries to energy generation installations, industrial services, taxes, revenues, fixed assets, capital as well as industrial environment, he said.

He added that all data will be kept in strict confidence and given codes rather than names, and no one will have access to them except the official assigned to enter the data into the computer.

Urging all businesses to cooperate with the survey teams, Dr. Alaween said that the survey which is conducted every four years is expected to yield information that would contribute to the country's economic and industrial development.

Rawabdeh attends graduation of VTC trainees

Much work lies ahead to cut unemployment, says minister

AMMAN (Petra) — Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Education Abdul Raouf Rawabdeh Sunday attended the graduation of three groups of trainees from centres run by the Vocational Training Corporation (VTC) and said Jordan was willing to offer its experience in vocational training to other Arab states.

The Ministry of Education is supporting vocational as well as academic training and is trying to upgrade training courses and transfer modern technology to Jordan in order to meet the requirements of the 21st century, said Mr. Rawabdeh in an address at the graduation ceremony.

Nine trainees from Oman, four from Jordan and 14 from Yemen graduated after completing eight-month courses and received their diplomas from the minister.

Praising the VTC for its efforts to train young men and women in useful trades, the minister said that the VTC courses help the young find jobs in the local labour market.

But the minister added that the VTC has a long way to go to help end the unemployment problem in Jordan; and for that purpose, he said, the VTC should take steps to cancel those streams for which there is no longer need in the local labour market.

The Ministry of Education has begun unifying the academic and the vocational training disciplines in the comprehensive secondary education system, which means that after completing high school a vocational training student can pursue higher studies at the university level, Mr. Rawabdeh explained. But this system is expected to be put into force at the start of the 1997 school year, Mr. Rawabdeh added.

Addressing the ceremony as well as VTC Director General Ali Nasrallah, who outlined the nature of vocational training, noting that the VTC expects to receive Sudanese trainees as well as candidates from other Arab countries before the end of 1995.

Since its establishment in 1972, the VTC has been able to establish 32 centres in different governorates, providing on-the-job training to most of the 100,000 graduates thus far in cooperation with more than 4,000 Jordanian businesses and factories.

Noting that the VTC is cooperating with vocational institutions in France, Canada, Korea, Switzerland and Japan, Dr. Nasrallah said that the corporation was continually upgrading its facilities and providing higher training for its instructors.

Present at the graduation ceremony was Minister of Labour Nader Abul Sbaa as well as the chargé d'affaires at the Omani embassy in Jordan and relatives of the graduates.



Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Education Abdul Raouf Rawabdeh Sunday distributes a certificate to one of the graduates of a Vocational Training Corporation course (Petra photo)

WHAT'S GOING ON

JERASH FESTIVAL

* Concert by New England Youth Ensemble of the U.S. at the South Theatre at 8:30 p.m.

* Performance by Jafra - Group at the Sound and Light Theatre at 9:00 p.m.

* Concert by Zdravetz Folklore Group of Bulgaria at The Forum at 9:00 p.m.

* "Street Show" by The Chipolatas at The Forum at 9:30 p.m.

* Poetry recitals by Lebanese, Jordanian, Iraqi, Moroccan and UAE poets at Darat Al Funun, Jabal Weibdeh (7:00 p.m.-9:00 p.m.)

* Puppet show - Aladdin and the Magic Lamp at the Sound and Light Theatre at 7:45 p.m.

* Performance by several Jordanian groups at the Forum (6:30-9:00 p.m.).

FILM

* "The Civil War: Most Hallowed Ground, 1864," at the American Center at 5:00 p.m.

LECTURE

* Settlement and Land-use on the Karak Plateau during the Islamic Period," by Allison McQuitty, director of the British Institute for Archaeology and History, at the Friends of Archaeology Centre at 6:30 p.m. (followed by a trip to Karak and Khirbet Faris on July 28 at 8:30 a.m.)

EXHIBITIONS

* Paintings and ceramics by Arab artists at Orfali Art Gallery, Umm Utheina.

* Exhibition in honour of Palestinian intifada victims and detainees at Abdul Hameed Shoman Foundation.

* Paintings by Adnan Yahyah at Darat Al Funun.

Sri Lanka prepares for fresh bid to end ethnic war

COLOMBO (Agencies) — Sri Lanka is on the verge of unveiling a political package aimed at ending its ethnic bloodletting and will appoint an interim administration in troubled regions within a week, official sources said Sunday.

The government of President Chandrika Kumaratunga is expected to announce this week proposals to resolve the drawn out ethnic conflict which has claimed over 50,000 lives in the past 23 years, the sources said.

The government wants to first appraise all political parties during the week and then have an interim council established before the month is out, a Tamil legislator said after a series of talks with government ministers.

The government was offering "very extensive devolution" of power to minority Tamils in exchange for ethnic peace in this majority Sinhala nation of 17.5 million people, the sources said.

They said the proposals were most likely to call for an Indian-style constitution where the unitary character would be retained while granting greater autonomy to smaller units.

The long-awaited political bid follows a major military campaign against the rebel Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE) in the northern Jaffna peninsula where they already maintain a de facto separate Tamil state.

Tamil sources say the government hoped to politically marginalise the Tamil Tigers by offering political concessions to moderates who have agreed to accept the unitary character of this small Indian Ocean republic.

The government first offered to discuss political moves with the Tigers but the group refused to even look at them before winning economic concessions in areas under their control.

Justice Minister G.L. Peiris told reporters here recently that the government had no intention of talking to the Tamil Tigers again. The current military drive was aimed at "liberating" Tamils from the LTTE, Mr. Peiris said.

The LTTE resumed its campaign for a separate state called Eelam on April 19 after ending six months of talks with Mrs. Kumaratunga's administration which

came to power in August promising an end to the bloodshed.

Mrs. Kumaratunga, a member of the majority Sinhala community, is now expected to address the nation later this week on her proposals that would allow minority Tamils a greater say in the administration of their own affairs.

Official sources said Mrs. Kumaratunga was keen to set up an interim administrative mechanism for the embattled northern and eastern regions pending elections in the strife-torn region.

There are areas in the Northeast brought under military control. It is possible to revive the civil administration in those places and for that a political body is necessary, a government source said.

Similar bids to resolve the conflict ended in failure and led to more bloodshed with the LTTE calling the shots in the northern and eastern regions, particularly in the Jaffna peninsula where most of the Tamils are concentrated. Tamil sources who did not want to be named said they were sounded out by the gov-

ernment last week to win their support for the proposed political package which is in line with sweeping constitutional reforms.

To introduce the Tamil package as well as constitutional reforms the government needs a two-thirds support in the national parliament and also approval at a nation-wide referendum.

The government which has only a one-seat majority must win the support of the main opposition United National Party (UNP) to press ahead with the package and Minister Peiris said informal talks showed that there was broad agreement.

Meanwhile an opinion poll Sunday showed President Kumaratunga's popularity slipping but that she still enjoyed the people's confidence over her handling of the bloody 12-year conflict with Tamil separatists.

Thirty-two per cent of those questioned were not satisfied with her overall performance compared to just 19 per cent in March, according to a survey conducted last month by Research International and the U.S.-based Mitofsky International.

Over 100 feared dead in Pakistan floods

ISLAMABAD (AFP) — More than 100 people were feared dead as floods caused by heavy rains washed away several villages in southern Pakistan's Sind province, police and officials said Sunday.

Police officials said more than 500 people were missing as several hundred villages were inundated following incessant rain late Saturday in Dadu district, about 300 miles (480 kilometres) north of the port city of Karachi.

At least 10 people from one family drowned when their boat capsized in the Indus River near Sukkur City in upper Sind. The family was on its way to attend a wedding ceremony.

Officials told AFP by telephone that over 100 square kilometres were submerged, creating an emergency situation.

Water in some areas was flowing as high as 12 feet (four metres), the highest level since 1942, an official said.

Newspapers said some 50,000 people were



A man takes out his bed as flood water surrounds several houses in an area of Abdullah Goth at the border of Sind and Baluchistan province. Hundreds of people have been shifted to other areas of the city as heavy monsoon rains flood areas and disturb normal life (AFP photo)

marooned and more than 300 villages inundated as flood protective embankments breached at several places.

Troops rushed to the area along with motor boats for rescue work, the sources said.

Rain disrupts Bangladesh flood relief

DHAKA (R) — Fresh rains hit Bangladesh Sunday, disrupting relief operations in many flooded districts across the country while disease continued to spread as people returned home where waters had receded, officials said.

The floods, triggered by rain and water sweeping in from India early this month, have killed at least 215 peo-

ple in 38 districts, they said. More than 70 of the total have died from diarrhoea contracted from polluted flood waters.

On the mainland, rain and wind whipped up flooded rivers, preventing relief supplies from being sent to stricken areas.

Officials also said a surge of water set off by the fresh

rains inundated areas in Chittagong and several islands of the coastal district of Bhola.

"We are facing rough weather which makes normal relief operations impossible," said an official in the northern district of Sirajganj.

Meanwhile, a battle to save the Chittagong River Port in the country's southeast resumed Sunday, officials said.

Taiwan: China has begun missile tests

TAIPEI (R) — Taiwan said Sunday that China has begun firing missiles into an area about 85 miles north of the island, and added that one had "completely missed its target."

A Defence Ministry official said the tests were part of a military exercise called "blue whale five" which started on China's east coast in late June and may continue until August or September.

He said China may also be moving an unspecified number of Jian-8 warplanes into east coast airports, adding to what is already perceived as a direct military threat toward this island 137 miles off China's southeast coast.

"We have spotted four missiles fired by China, two

on Friday and two on Saturday. We will continue to keep on high alert for any further activities," the official said by telephone.

He added that one of the missiles had completely missed its target area but did not say where it had landed. Two others landed on the target area's southern edge.

State television said the missiles were launched from a town called Leping in the southern Chinese province of Jiangxi and flew in a south easterly direction for more than 300 miles (480 kilometres) to the target area.

The military official did not deny the television report, which if accurate, makes it clear that China could strike Taiwan from bases in its interior.

China, which has viewed Taiwan as a renegade province since a civil war in 1949, vows to use force against it if it declares formal independence.

In another sign of escalating hostility, the local China Times Express quoted Taiwan merchants as saying China now requires them to produce "export permits" before they may ship goods out of the country.

The measure was imposed recently without any prior notice, and has caused Taiwanese investors heavy financial losses, the newspaper said. It did not specify the losses.

Taiwan so far has reacted defiantly toward China's tests.

China quake kills 13, injures 52

BEIJING (R) — An earthquake in China's northwestern Gansu province has killed 13 people, injured 52 and toppled more than 4,500 houses, local officials said Sunday.

The tremor measuring 5.8 on the open-ended Richter Scale rocked Yonghe county, about 90 kilometres north of the provincial capital, Lanzhou, on Saturday morning.

At least 13 people were killed and 52 injured, an official of the Seismological Bureau in Lanzhou said by telephone.

"Most of the casualties

were caused when houses collapsed," the official said. "The death toll is unlikely to rise much further because most of the rescue work has been completed."

The earthquake toppled more than 4,500 houses, many of them old and made of sun-baked mud, and damaged 5,000 others, he said.

More than 5,000 people were made homeless by the earthquake and traffic was suspended in some areas.

The official said tents were being set up for the homeless in the area, which is an earthquake zone.

A total of 62 aftershocks were recorded, the largest

measuring 3.1 on the Richter Scale, by Sunday morning, the state Seismological Bureau said.

"This was an average-sized earthquake for this area, although we do not have many that are this big," the official said.

An earthquake that jolted southwestern China along the border with Burma this month killed 11 people, injured 136 and affected 600,000 people.

The earthquake measuring 7.3 on the Richter Scale was followed by nearly 200 aftershocks and caused damage estimated at 300 million yuan (\$36 million).

14 people killed in Burundi violence

BUJUMBURA (R) — Fourteen people were killed in two separate violent incidents in Burundi, including an attack on students at a university in the capital Bujumbura, state radio reported.

Eight people were killed in the raid on Kiriri University campus, the radio said in a

report Saturday. Four were students, two were campus staff, and two were attackers killed by security forces. Three students were wounded.

University sources said the attackers were Hutu guerrillas and the dead students were Tutsis. The attack was

apparently a reprisal for an attack by Tutsis last month in which 15 Hutu students were killed.

In a separate incident, six members of the same family were killed when they were attacked in Bwiza village, near the capital, the radio reported.

China blasts Taiwan president

BEIJING (R) — China Sunday accused President Lee Teng-hui of rival Taiwan of plotting to declare the island an independent nation and of revealing his plans during a private visit to the United States last month.

Mr. Lee's U.S. trip has enraged Beijing, sending Sino-U.S. relations into a nosedive and prompting China to announce and carry out missile tests just north of Taiwan, in an apparent direct military threat to the island.

The 1.2 billion Chinese people have long made up their minds never to allow the plot of the independence of Taiwan in any form to succeed, China's official Xinhua News Agency said in a commentary Sunday.

"Should Lee Teng-hui continue to go down along that dangerous road of defiance of the will of the people, he would certainly be utterly discredited and stand condemned by the Chinese nation through the ages," Xinhua said.

It accused Mr. Lee of betraying his early membership of the Communist Party and later its rival, the Nationalist Party, which he now heads in Taiwan, and of secretly promoting independence for the island.

Both Beijing's Communist rulers and the Nationalist Party in Taiwan advocate reunification of the island with mainland China, but differ over how to achieve their end.

Beijing has regarded Taiwan as a rebel province since the nationalists fled there after losing the civil war in 1949.

"Lee Teng-hui has never the past years, cast off the disguise of 'advocating one China' and thus revealed his true features as one splitting the motherland," Xinhua said.

Mr. Lee's move was unlikely to impress aid givers, well aware of Kenya's shortcoming since pledging \$800 million in aid last December and welcoming positive human rights developments.

"In Sweden's view the meeting is a kind of stock-taking. Optimism in December was high but donors have noted some backsliding," Swedish Charge d'affaires Anders Karlsson told Reuters.

"It is a stock-taking to give the basis for decisions to be made next December," he added.

His concerns include stamping out widespread corruption, harassment of the opposition, the press and non-governmental organisations and the need for civil service and constitutional reform.

They also stress Kenya needs dialogue between the government and opposition, an acceleration of privatisation of state-owned companies and an end to government control of electronic media.

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Heseltine goes under the microscope

LONDON (R) — Who is running Britain? Is it Prime Minister John Major or his number two, Michael Heseltine?

The country's "Kremlinologists" have had a field day trying to answer that question since Mr. Major gave Mr. Heseltine the grand title of deputy prime minister and first secretary of state in a cabinet reshuffle earlier this month.

Revelations that Mr. Heseltine's new office is twice as big as Mr. Major's and that he has a key to the back door of the prime minister's residence at 10 Downing Street have set tongues wagging in Whitehall.

Mr. Heseltine's suite of offices, which backs onto No. 10, was swiftly dubbed 10A Downing Street.

The Sun newspaper said Mr. Heseltine had vowed to take control of Britain by Christmas.

"Friends say he has set himself a six-month timetable to become effective prime minister — leaving John Major as a figurehead," the paper said.

Mr. Major said he wanted the charismatic Heseltine to improve the coordination and presentation of the government's policies in the run-up to the next general election, due by May 1997.

But the lingering suspicion is that Mr. Heseltine, who has never made any secret of

his ambition to be prime minister, was rewarded for his conspicuous loyalty in urging his supporters to vote for Mr. Major in his successful defence of the leadership of the ruling Conservatives against right-winger John Redwood.

Mr. Heseltine, whose leadership challenge brought down ex-Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher in 1990, was thought likely to enter the race if Mr. Major had failed to win clearly in the first ballot on July 4 of the leadership challenge he had called himself.

Malcolm Bruce of the minority Liberal Democrats said the favours bestowed on Mr. Heseltine, who has 1,000 civil servants under his control, showed the enormous price Mr. Major had had to pay to keep his job.

"Mr. Heseltine now has an office as large as his own ego," Mr. Bruce said. "At this rate Mr. Major will be in the broom cupboard on the outer extremes of Whitehall within months."

It was Mr. Bruce's parliamentary questions that elicited the stunning information that Mr. Heseltine had had 10 telephones and seven computers installed in his office (size: 872 square feet against Mr. Major's 370).

He had also spent £75 (\$120) on stationery. "Taxpayers will be furious at having to pay for two prime

ministers," Mr. Bruce thundered.

Heseltine, who has a new press nickname to go with the job — "Lion King" instead of "Tarzan" — has by all accounts wasted no time throwing his weight around.

Newspaper said Home Secretary (Interior Minister) Michael Howard threatened to resign after Mr. Heseltine, given the "freedom to roam" across government departments, invaded his territory.

And this week Mr. Major named Mr. Heseltine to head a powerful new cabinet committee to oversee Britain's industrial and competitiveness policies, giving him the scope to exert influence over many parts of the government machine.

But if the Lion King has really become the power behind the throne, why, his detractors wanted to know, was he in charge of fewer cabinet committees than Mr. Major or even behind-the-scenes minister Tony Newton, the leader of the House of Commons?

"There are no winners and no losers," said a spokesman at Downing Street — No. 10, that is, not No. 10A.

But that is unlikely to stop the speculation and the gossip as pundits look for ways to fill the political news vacuum until parliament returns in October from its long summer holidays.

Amnesty slams Kenya as donors meet

PARIS (R) — Amnesty International accused Kenya Monday of repeatedly violating human rights, especially those of women.

It accused Kenyan police of frequently using torture to obtain confessions and said rape by members of the security forces was widespread.

Amnesty's allegations were published as a World Bank donor meeting prepared to start in Paris and after another human rights group urged donors to link all future non-humanitarian aid to Kenya to improvements in its rights record.

Officials in Nairobi declined comment on the Amnesty report, saying they had not seen it.

Kenyan President Daniel Arap Moi has in the past condemned Amnesty for what he says is its completely unwarranted criticism of his country's human rights record.

But, seeking to deflect criticism, he said Saturday he would set up a national committee for human rights.

The amnesty report said Kenya allowed a certain level of freedom of speech to opposition parties and tolerated independent and opposition newspapers.

But it added: "This image

however does not stand up to close scrutiny.

"In reality, human rights activists, government critics and others are intimidated and harassed."

It singled out what it said was the persecution of female critics of the government and women relatives of men critical of authorities, alleging women were terrorised and tortured by security force personnel.

It gave examples of women purportedly raped by members of security forces and said authorities failed to investigate or did not investigate fully.

The report called on Kenya to take effective steps to prevent rape, sexual abuse and torture, specifically asking that female guards should be present when women were interrogated.

On Sunday, the Human Rights Watch group said Mr. Arap Moi apparently saw aid pledges at another donors' meeting in December made without strong human rights conditions as tacit consent to revert to repressive practices.

Kenya's donors, under pressure from human rights groups, meet in Paris Monday to press President Arap Moi's government to clean up its act.

The New York-based Hu-

man Rights Watch Africa urged donors Monday to link future non-humanitarian aid to improvements in Kenya's human rights record which has deteriorated since their last Paris meeting.

Mr. Arap Moi's move was unlikely to impress aid givers, well aware of Kenya's shortcoming since pledging \$800 million in aid last December and welcoming positive human rights developments.

"In Sweden's view the meeting is a kind of stock-taking. Optimism in December was high but donors have noted some backsliding," Swedish Charge d'affaires Anders Karlsson told Reuters.

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They also stress Kenya needs dialogue between the government and opposition, an acceleration of privatisation of state-owned companies and an end to government control of electronic media.

Trump marriage is over, but the war goes on

NEW YORK (AP) — More than three years after their often-tumultuous marriage ended in divorce, Donald Trump and ex-wife Ivana are still at it. "You certainly should be ashamed of yourself," Trump wrote in a blistering three-page letter be-

sent, upset by his ex-wife's article about a new yacht. The purchase of a new yacht, her letter attacked Ivana, her publicist, her attorneys and her unspecified next spouse.

"While it is always interesting to read that you 'don't need me' it's not need me, you certainly went after it (if you don't need it, why don't you don't need it)," continued Mr. Trump, the New York-based real estate developer known for naming his business ventures after himself. The couple, who divorced in March 1992, had recently reunited for a pizza commercial poking fun at their split. A New York Post story headlined "Ivana has last laugh" started the fight. The story said that while Ivana was now the owner of a \$8 million yacht, Donald was landlocked after selling his Trump Princess.

Trump charged that Ivana lied about the cost of the boat, doubling its \$4 million price tag for publicity. "I am not particularly happy seeing you blow money on boats, town houses, etc.," Trump wrote. "This money was given to you for your protection and so that it may someday go to the children. I sure as hell did not give it to you so that it goes to your next husband — whoever that may be," Ivana's spokeswoman, Catherine Saxton, said her response was "one of shock" after hearing of Mr. Trump's tirade.

Imran Khan returns home with wife

LAHORE, Pakistan (AFP) — Former Pakistani cricket hero and his British wife Jemima arrived here Saturday to start a new life together in a conservative Asian environment far from London high life. Khan, 42, and his 21-year-old spouse, daughter of Anglo-French tycoon James Goldsmith, flew in from Saudi Arabia after a pilgrimage to Islam's holiest shrine at Mecca. Jemima, who converted to Islam before the marriage, is expected to be in the spotlight here as she learns to adapt to her new social milieu. Mr. Khan emerged from Lahore Air port through the ordinary passenger exit but Jemima used the VIP channel from where she was whisked away in a limousine, witnesses said. An unexpectedly small crowd of about 400 went to the airport to welcome the couple. Many expressed disappointment at not seeing Jemima with her husband. Arrangements had been made in advance to drive Jemima home separately as a big crowd had been expected at the airport in this city of six million people, family sources said. A few welcomes shouted slogans hailing Imran Khan as future prime minister of Pakistan. The country's former cricket captain and leading all-rounder has repeatedly denied any intention of plunging into Pakistani politics which he has described as riven with corruption. But he has pledged to continue his social work.

Doctor who cut off toe without consent loses licence

TALLAHASSEE, Florida (AFP) — A doctor who amputated a toe without consent five months after he removed the wrong leg of another patient has had his licence suspended. Florida's state medical authorities ruled that Dr. Rolando Sanchez "presents an immediate and serious danger to the health, safety and welfare of the public." The state Agency for Health Care Administration issued the order Friday. Dr. Sanchez in February mistakenly removed the right leg of a 51-year-old patient, who was to have his other leg amputated. The bungle was attributed to a series of paperwork mistakes. Another patient who consented to have dead tissue removed from her right foot, woke up hours later to find a toe missing. Dr. Sanchez amputated the patient's toe but later denied doing so to a nursing supervisor, stating that "it had fallen off," according to the emergency order.

Susan Smith found guilty of killing her sons

UNION, S.C. (R) — Susan Smith was found guilty of two counts of first-degree murder for killing her two young sons after just two-and-a-half hours of deliberation by a South Carolina jury.

Ms. Smith, wearing a black jacket and green skirt, began shaking and needed support from her attorneys as she stood to hear the jury's verdict — which could send her to the electric chair.

But defence attorney David Bruck said afterwards that the 23-year-old mother whose story shocked the country had been prepared for the guilty verdict.

"She expected this, I expected this," Mr. Bruck said. "Susan has been willing to plead guilty for months so this is exactly what we expected to happen."

He said the verdict was hard for her mother and brother and that Ms. Smith was trying to comfort her family.

Circuit Judge William Howard told the jury of nine men and three women to meet Monday for the trial's penalty phase.

Under South Carolina law, the jury must wait 24 hours before deciding the punishment for murder convictions, which in Ms. Smith's case could be either life in prison or death by electrocution.

Judges must abide by the jury's decision.

Bruck would not comment on any specific mitigating evidence the defence would use Monday.

The prosecution said it would continue pushing for Ms. Smith's execution.

"We look forward to the next stage," prosecutor Tommy Pope told reporters, adding the prosecution would present evidence not admitted earlier, including gruesome autopsy photos of the bodies of Michael, 3, and Alex, 14 months.

Saturday's jury decision

was the latest step in a story of murder, deceit and tragedy.

Following the boys' disappearance on Oct. 25, Ms. Smith, who is white, sparked an outpouring of sympathy through an elaborate hoax in which she claimed a black man "with bad body odor" had hijacked her car and abducted her children.

But even as her tearful pleas for the boys' return were carried over the national media, investigators were picking apart the story. Nine days later, she admitted to letting her car roll into John D. Long Lake with her sons still strapped into their carseats in back.

In deciding to convict her for first-degree murder, the jury rejected the option of finding Ms. Smith guilty of involuntary manslaughter, a lesser charge carrying a maximum penalty of five years in prison for each conviction.

The prosecution argued

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A unidentified man cries after the fire burned down his home as a large forest fire raged unabated north of Athens, destroying homes and other buildings (AFP photo)

Greece 'optimistic' on beating massive forest fire

ATHENS (AFP) — A massive forest fire described by Prime Minister Andreas Papandreu as a "biblical catastrophe" raging north-east of Athens could be under control by evening, Greek officials said Sunday.

But the blaze, which has lasted three days, has destroyed one of the last green spaces near Athens — already one of the most polluted capital in Europe.

Defence Minister Nikos Kouris said the fire had laid waste to some 6,000 hectares (14,820 acres) of pine forest.

He added: "A third of the forests will have to be cleared."

The area is considered

Athens "last green lung" in a capital considered the most polluted in Europe. Mr. Papandreu said the area would be reforested.

Officials said the fire no longer represented a threat to inhabited areas, although firefighters warned that the situation remained unstable and could deteriorate in the event of a change in wind strength or direction.

But later the authorities overseeing the firefighting operation said they hoped firefighters would soon contain the fire.

Agriculture Minister Georges Moraitis told journalists: "We can be optimistic because we are confronted

with only a single front."

And he said first official figures on the property damage from the fire suggested it was less than originally feared.

Earlier reports suggested hundreds of homes and public buildings had been damaged by the fire. In fact, said Mr. Moraitis, around 45 buildings were damaged.

Flames formed a broken ring over a front 20 kilometres in length, not far from the other Athens suburbs of Ekali et Drossia.

All 1,500 available firefighters were called out to tackle the fire.

At one point Saturday Mr. Papandreu described the

fire as a "biblical catastrophe," after emerging from an emergency cabinet meeting.

The high winds eased Sunday to around force five on the Beaufort Scale, helping the firefighters in their task.

They were also supported by six Greek airplanes, an Italian Canadair and a French Eokker which dropped water on the fire, in their battle against the fire.

Elsewhere in Greece, a second place sent from France, a reconnaissance aircraft, has been sent to a second forest fire burning fiercely near Aigion, 150 kilometres west of Athens.

Secret U.K. Sinn Fein talks enrage Protestants

BELFAST (IR) — Furious pro-British Protestant politicians pressed Britain Sunday to come clean about the agenda of a top-secret Northern Ireland meeting last week between ministers and the IRA's political wing, Sinn Fein.

Britain was forced to confirm the ground-breaking "private meeting" after Dublin's Sunday Tribune newspaper reported that Northern Ireland Secretary Sir Patrick Mayhew had met Sinn Fein President Gerry Adams in London Tuesday.

The meeting, aimed at easing growing tension in the British-ruled province's 11-month peace process, ended months of deadlock between the two sides but fanned Pro-

testant politicians' suspicions of secret deals.

Confirming the meeting, the Northern Ireland Office said: "The government saw this meeting as a constructive way of retaining its position, exploring the position of Sinn Fein and seeking to advance the (peace) process."

It said Junior Northern Ireland Minister Michael Ancram and Martin McGuinness, Sinn Fein's chief negotiator in recent bilateral exploratory talks, also took part.

Practically every move that pleases Sinn Fein, which wants northern Ireland to become part of the Irish Republic, enrages leaders of the province's Protestant majority who want no change to its

status within the United Kingdom.

"It's about time the (British) Northern Ireland Office was full and frank with the people of Northern Ireland because this sort of behaviour is only going to create deep uncertainty and anxiety in the community," said David Trimble, a senior parliamentarian in the dominant Ulster Unionist Party.

"There has to be a full statement by the Northern Ireland Office as soon as possible," he told Reuters.

It was Sir Patrick's first known meeting in Northern Ireland with Mr. Adams since the Irish Republican Army stopped its 25-year fight against British rule last September, opting to pursue

its goal of a reunified Ireland through Sinn Fein in all-party talks.

Their only other acknowledged meeting was a brief session in Washington in May on the margins of a U.S. government conference promoting investment in post-ceasefire Northern Ireland.

Sir Patrick's subsequent refusal to speak to Mr. Adams publicly in the province itself provoked Sinn Fein claims of political discrimination.

Britain has consistently held out against multilateral talks until the IRA, and its foes in fiercely pro-British guerrilla forces, hand over massive stockpiles of armaments to prove their commitment to long-term peace.

Typhoon smashes into S.Korea; 40 missing, ship sunk

SEOUL (AFP) — Typhoon Faye smashed onto the southern coast of South Korea Sunday, sending mountainous waves smashing into ships and ports, uprooting rail lines and leaving more than 40 missing or dead, weathermen and reports said.

A 1,000 tonnes cargo ship, the Fairplay, with three Koreans, two Indians and three Chinese crewmen on board, was reported to have sunk near the southern port of Yosu — the first hit by Faye — after being hurled onto a seawall.

All eight crewmen were reported missing, Yonhap News Agency said.

An oil tanker, the 140,000-tonne Cyprus-registered Sea Prince, with 21 crewmen aboard was also in trouble off the coast near Yosu.

The Sea Prince was carrying

700,000 barrels of oil, Yonhap said, adding that the Coast Guard had lost radio contact with the tanker.

The first victims of Faye, the third typhoon of the year, were reported from Yosu, 400 kilometres (240 miles) south of Seoul, when a van parked on a breakwater with 16 women inside was washed away by high waves.

Several bodies had been recovered, KBS Television said.

At least a dozen Korean fishermen were missing after several small boats disappeared in boiling seas and in winds of up to 154 kilometres (96 miles) an hour, off the southern coast, KBS and MBC TV said.

Two railway workers trying to repair a coastal line torn up by the waves, were

washed into the sea and were reported missing.

In the southeastern port of Pusan, a police officer disappeared while trying to rescue three fishermen. All four were carried away in heavy seas, the reports said.

Television footage showed scores of small boats and port facilities battered by waves smashing over the sea walls, cars that had been blown off roads, roofs whipped off by the winds and trees uprooted.

Yonhap News Agency said dozens of small craft were sunk, smashed, washed ashore or adrift in the raging seas.

The huge waves spawned by Faye crashed into Yosu and other nearby southern coastal towns, destroying railroads and rice fields, Yonhap said.

Weathermen said the

typhoon, the third of the year, was expected in rampage through the southern provinces, before dissipating over the Sea of Japan.

Earlier Sunday the weathermen had issued typhoon warnings in the country's southern and eastern provinces.

Government officials were on emergency footing.

Holiday-makers and some 60,000 fishing boats and ferries in southern coastal areas had taken shelter in safe areas before the typhoon hit, and residents in low-lying areas warned to head for the high ground.

However 11 young hikers in the mountains behind Yosu pnn were stranded after being cut off by flash floods triggered by Faye's torrential rains, KBS said.

Relatives rampage at Seoul-store collapse site

SEOUL (IR) — Angry relatives of people still missing from last month's Seoul department store collapse have rampaged through the capital's streets, clashing with riot police and destroying police vehicles, witnesses said Sunday.

They said relatives of 140 people listed as missing from the June 29 disaster held a 12-hour protest that ended early Sunday demanding the resumption of search operations for the remains of victims entombed in the store's rubble.

The protesters clashed with riot police when they were prevented from staging a sit-in at the store site to demand an apology from Seoul Mayor Cho Soon and the resumption of search operations. They also burned two police vehicles.

"Around midnight the relatives were stopped from marching on a nearby building, home to the city's rescue and

search operations, which was being visited by Mr. Cho.

The protesters exploded papane and butane gas containers when Mr. Cho refused to meet them and hurled water bottles at Mr. Cho's car as he left, witnesses said.

Eight policemen were injured during the protests, a Seoul police officer said. Their condition was not known, he added.

There were no reports of any arrests.

The weekend protests began after the city government withdrew most rescue workers and equipment from the store site to focus on removing the skeleton of the luxury five-storey Sampoong Department Store because of fears of further collapse.

But after the demonstrations, city authorities hewed to the relatives' request and resumed search work Sunday.

"Although chances of find-

ing more bodies are very scarce, we have decided to resume the search work in earnest," a Seoul city official said. The search operation had never officially been called off, he added.

An official at the Emergency Task Force Office said 137 people were still classified as missing from the collapse, which has claimed at least 458 lives.

He said there were still 60 unidentified bodies included both in the death toll and in the missing list.

Officials were checking missing reports after two were found to have been false and one was withdrawn.

Since last Tuesday, rescue workers have dug out 25 pieces of bone and body parts and more than 1,000 items believed to belong to the victims from a waste dump on the outskirts of Seoul where tonnes of wreckage from the store were dumped.

The work began after relatives

feared some of those missing might have been moved with the rubble.

Mr. Cho, elected only two days before the disaster took place, has said the city government will conduct safety checks of 220 public buildings, including office buildings, hospitals and hotels that are in stories or higher.

Seoul prosecutors, blaming shoddy workmanship for the disaster, have charged Lee Joon, founder and owner of the store, and three other executives with criminal negligence.

They have charged three former government officials with taking bribes to turn a blind eye on illegal changes made to the structure of the building.

They have also said several others, including architects and construction-firm executives in charge of design and engineering work at the store, would face arrest.

Japan coalition keeps majority in low-key upper house polls

TOKYO (AFP) — Japan's year-old ruling coalition was projected to keep its solid majority in upper house elections Sunday which also enhanced Prime Minister Tomiichi Murayama's prospects of keeping his job despite his own Social Democratic Party's significant losses.

NHK, the Japan Broadcasting Corporation, said about three hours after vote counting started that its projections showed the three-party coalition was certain to win easily enough seats to retain a solid majority in the 252-seat House of Councillors.

But a record low turnout of about 43 per cent demonstrated voter apathy towards the unlikely to left-right coalition which helped the conservative Liberal Democratic Party (LDP) back to power in 1993 general elections for the more important lower house, one year after its previous 38-year reign ended.

It was the lowest voter figure for any national elections since World War II and a big fall from the previous

low of 50.7 per cent in the last Senate polls in 1992.

"The outcome of the upper house elections will in no way lead immediately to a shift in government," Social Democratic Party Secretary General Wataru Kubo commented to reporters as early returns came in.

Mr. Kubo was one of Murayama's intra-party rivals who had said Mr. Murayama should resign if his party suffered a crushing loss in the ballot which the premier had called as a "vote of confidence" in his government.

Observers said a major reason for Mr. Murayama's likely survival as premier was the continuing inability of the LDP, the biggest coalition party, to find sufficient unanimity among its quarrelling factions to agree on an LDP premier.

According to NHK projections and exit polls, the LDP was assured of 43 seats, Mr. Murayama's party secured 11 seats — far below the 22 it won in the last upper house polls — and Finance Minister Masayoshi Takemura's New Party Sakigake took two.

With the addition of 83 uncontested seats the coalition already holds, they assure its majority.

The opposition Shinshinto (New Frontier Party), a coalition of LDP defectors and centrists, performed well in the election by securing 34 seats in the early stages of vote counting, NHK said.

The three parties had 158 seats in all before the polls, which are held every three years for half of the seats of the largely ceremonial upper house.

Mr. Murayama's party has lost support among Socialist faithful by compromising on its pacifist creed after teaming up with its longtime foe the LDP in June last year.

Mr. Murayama had earlier vowed to win 22 seats as it did in the last upper house election. But it later discreetly lowered the goal to around 15 and now appears to have fallen short of that target too.

"We shall not set a bottom line for victory or defeat," Mr. Kubo said as his party headed for its poorest ever showing in Senate elections. Its previous worst result was 20 seats.

Shinshinto was founded in December by nine parties. Its pre-election strength was 35 seats, a figure that did not include the neo-Buddhist Komeito (Clean Government Party), which remained a separate voting bloc with 12 seats in the upper house, despite its membership of the opposition alliance.

But Komeito has been fully integrated into Shinshinto for the current elections.

Foreign Minister and LDP President Yohei Kono attributed Shinshinto's success to the organisational skills of Komeito, which is backed by the big lay Buddhist organisation, Soka Gakkai.

"The extremely low turnout has proved advantageous for a party with strong organisational power," Mr. Kono said.

Shinshinto officials were delighted at the results.

"These are wonderful results because they show Shinshinto is being recognised by voters as capable of taking over the government in the future," said Shinshinto Deputy Secretary-General Kozo Watanabe.

SPD chief wants Bonn alliance with Greens

BONN (R) — The leader of Germany's opposition Social Democrats has for the first time explicitly backed the notion of a national coalition government with environmentalist Greens after the country's next general election.

Social Democrat (SPD) leader Rudolf Scharping told the Bild Am Sonntag weekly his party could learn from a "red-green" coalition government recently established in Germany's most populous state, North Rhine-Westphalia.

"In 1979 we'll be able to see that this has potential for Germany as a whole," Mr. Scharping told Bild Am Sonntag.

"I'm quite sure that SPD and Greens will together get substantially more votes in

the 1988 general election than in 1994. And that will be enough for a change of government."

During the disarmament rallies of the 1980s, when the Greens first entered parliament bearing pot plants, a red-green alliance would have been unthinkable for all but a radical fringe of the SPD. Now the Greens and their leaders have changed and the SPD's fortunes have sunk in 13 years of opposition.

At the October 1994 election, which returned Chancellor Helmut Kohl to power at the head of a centre-right coalition, Mr. Scharping refused to state a preference for either the Greens or the liberal Free Democrats (FDP). Mr. Kohl's junior partners.

Kidnapped tourists in Kashmir remain untraced

SRINAGAR, India (AFP) — Five Western tourists held hostage by Muslim guerrillas in Kashmir remain untraced Sunday, almost 20 days after the first of them were kidnapped to seek the release of 21 jailed rebels.

Meanwhile, the Al Faran rebel group which claimed responsibility for the abductions, Sunday again accused Indian authorities of raiding their hide-out and "firing indiscriminately," causing injuries to two hostages.

"On the night of July 20 Indian troops raided a hide-out in Kapran village in (northern) Anantnag district," a handwritten statement in Urdu circulated in this state summer capital said.

"Two foreigners were injured in the bloody encounter and the condition of one of them is serious," it said. "But

we managed to escape safely."

Indian authorities had earlier denied the charge saying: "There was 'no gunbattle and nobody had been injured.'"

"There have been no negotiations with the government for the past few days," the statement said, warning India of "dire consequences" if the Al Faran demand for the release of 21 jailed militants was not met.

"The responsibility and blame will be on Indian troops," it said. "If our demand is rejected, we cannot guarantee that the foreigners will live."

A massive search operation launched by Indian troops in the woods and mountains of Pahalgam district where they were abducted has yielded no results.

Poll: Chirac popularity plunges over nuclear tests

PARIS (AFP) — French President Jacques Chirac has plunged 10 points in his popularity rating largely because of his decision to resume nuclear testing in the south Pacific, an opinion poll said Sunday.

Mr. Chirac dropped to 44 per cent compared with 54 per cent a month ago, a poll of IFOP institute for the Sunday newspaper Journal Du Dimanche said, with most respondents putting nuclear tests as motivating their change of mind.

Mr. Chirac, who was invested president on May 17, already dropped five points in June.

The total 15-point drop in a little more than two months was unprecedented in the history of France's Fifth Republic, founded in 1958. Jean-Luc Parodi, of the National Foundation for Political Sciences and an advisor to IFOP, wrote in the newspaper.

Prime Minister Alain Juppe also suffered in the poll, but less than Mr. Chirac because he was less exposed to the nuclear test fallout, Mr. Parodi said.

Mr. Juppe dropped four points to 51 per cent, the poll said. A total of 1,867 people were questioned for the poll.

Mr. Chirac's decision "set off an international wave of protest whose size and duration he doubtless failed to foresee and today he is paying the price," Mr. Parodi said.

Some respondents criticised Mr. Chirac for being "a warmonger" or said the test resumption was "contrary to the tide of history" and others said the money to be spent on the testing should go to help the homeless, or said they feared boycotts would hit French exports.

Others criticised Mr. Chirac for failing to deliver on his principal presidential campaign theme — the need for urgent action to cut unemployment and fight poverty and homelessness, Mr. Parodi said.

Meanwhile three Greenpeace protesters, including ailing founder Dr. J. McTaggart, are now back aboard their yacht Vega after claiming to have spent the last two weeks hiding in France's South Pacific nuclear test



Spectators watching the friendly soccer match Norway vs. France in Oslo hold up placards saying "Non" expressing their protest against Paris' decision to restart nuclear testing in the South Pacific (AFP photo)

zone, Greenpeace said Sunday.

Greenpeace had repeatedly claimed the trio, Mr. McTaggart, Dutch-New Zealander Henk Haazen and Australian Chris Robinson, had secretly entered the exclusion zone around Mururoa and were hiding on the atoll.

But Greenpeace spokeswoman Stephanie Mills, who returned here Sunday, declined to say where the trio had been hiding.

She said the Vega, currently northwest of Mururoa, had picked up the three men who were tired but well.

On Saturday the French Navy said it had found a "missing" Greenpeace Zodiac rubber dinghy at sea 210 kilometres north of Mururoa.

A navy spokesman said it appeared the trio had been camping on Vanavana Atoll, about 120 kilometres from Mururoa. A helicopter patrol had found food and evidence of a camp on the atoll.

The three activists and a Zodiac boat disappeared on July 10 when the French Navy seized the Rainbow Warrior II, which had entered the 12 kilometre mili-

ary exclusion zone around the Mururoa nuclear test site.

The day before disappearing Mr. McTaggart had appeared on a television interview here revealing he had lung disease emphysema.

He said he had just made a will because the "odds are not very good" on the planned Mururoa action.

Mr. McTaggart told Television New Zealand he planned to tunnel into radioactive sand and disrupt preparations for September's resumption of nuclear tests.

France remained defiantly impassive this weekend amid growing world condemnation — and perhaps more importantly, a mounting threat of economic boycotts — in response to its plan to resume nuclear tests in the South Pacific.

President Chirac appeared entirely unmoved by condemnation from Tokyo, threats from New Zealand and Australia and even signs of disquiet among worried exporters at home.

"Irrevocable" was the only response available from the French Foreign Ministry when asked about Mr. Chirac's decision to carry out eight new nuclear tests at the

Mururoa atoll from September.

The decision to resume nuclear tests, announced on June 13 following Mr. Chirac's election as French head of state in May, has attracted mounting international condemnation in recent weeks and days.

Protests have included the invasion of the French embassy in Canberra, a call by Japanese lawmakers for a boycott of French goods, while a French car dealership in Italy was set on fire.

Paris's apparently heavy-handed commando storming the Greenpeace vessel Rainbow Warrior II at the Mururoa atoll seemed only to inflame public opinion.

But as country after country, from Denmark to New Zealand and from South Africa to Russia, joined the growing international outcry over the decision, the only reaction from Paris was a taciturn "no comment."

The French president himself was in Africa, playing up his Gaullist image by a five-year tour to former colonies expressing solidarity with them. No reply was forthcoming from there.

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Better deal for Baghdad

BAGHDAD'S PARDONING of thousands of army deserters and other prisoners is a timely move in that country's untiring attempts to end the 5-year-old sanctions imposed by the U.N. following Iraq's invasion of Kuwait. The move that signals a major improvement to the human rights situation in that country coincides with an Iraqi diplomatic offensive to win more countries to its side. Significant among these moves was the release of two Americans jailed for illegally entering Iraq from Kuwait and the visit that the Iraqi foreign minister, Mohammad Saeed Sahaf, recently made to Egypt and his meeting with his counterpart Amr Musa.

But all these moves came along with an Iraqi warning that it would end cooperation with the U.N. if the Security Council failed to end the sanctions by the time of the next review in September.

The Iraqis seem to be telling the world that they feel they have done whatever is required of them under the terms of the Security Council resolutions and since they see no end to the demands made by some of the Council's permanent members they would opt for ending their cooperation with the Council.

Whether this is a real threat or just a ploy to test the waters is immaterial. The truth is the Iraqi people and leadership feel that they are unjustifiably being targeted and that they see no end to their plight. Furthermore, it seems to the Iraqis and to other Arab and Muslim countries and people that Iraq is being victimised by the West far longer than is justified by the invasion of Kuwait, especially when others, like the European Serbs, are getting away with genocide.

Surely, the U.N. work in Iraq, including inspection, verification and elimination of mass-destruction weapons can still continue after the sanctions, which were originally tied to Iraq's withdrawal from Kuwait, are lifted. The Iraqi people, for all purposes and intent, are unjustly and inhumanely being subjected to a ruthless embargo that is having its toll on the children, women and the elderly.

After five years of hardship and continued cooperation with the world community Iraq deserves a better deal from the U.N.

ARABIC PRESS COMMENTARIES

COMMENTING ON the reported American decision to write off all of Jordan's official debts to the United States, Al Ra'i Arabic daily said the move is doubtless deeply appreciated by the Jordanian people. With this decision as conveyed, Washington has honoured its commitment to Jordan and pledges by President Clinton to help the Kingdom get rid of its debt burden so as to direct its attention towards reconstruction and development in the peace era, said the paper. The United States considers Jordan's role pivotal in the peacemaking process and it is no doubt trying to bolster its ties with the Kingdom in order to enhance the peace and give impetus to stability and security in this region, said the paper. Through the coming Middle East and North Africa economic summit, said the paper, Jordan is trying to build on the peace and to pave the ground for fruitful regional cooperation and there is no doubt that Washington appreciates this Jordanian role and is keen on honouring its commitments to the Kingdom. It is hoped, said the paper, that the American decision will be followed by sincere and strong American support for Jordanian efforts to achieve a comprehensive and lasting peace encompassing the whole region.

DESCRIBING a decision by major world powers on Bosnia Herzegovina as mere lip service to the Bosnian people, Al Dustour daily said that the Serbs do not feel threatened nor do they feel they are forced to halt their attacks and their massacres against the Bosnian population. The paper said the decision by the London conference on Bosnia was not better than resolutions passed by the U.N. Security Council and threats by NATO against the Serbs, who seem more determined to pursue their ethnic cleansing campaign and their barbaric attacks on the Bosnians. As a direct result of the London conference and its decision, the Serbs escalated their threats against the Bosnians and displayed renewed defiance of the world community's will, said the paper. We were not surprised by the fragile decision and we are not surprised either to hear the defiant Serbs statements simply because world capitals are turning a blind eye vis-a-vis the atrocities though they continue to condemn them by mere slogans, said the paper.

South Africa: 'A mortal blow to racism'

By Adam Jones

AS SO often in South Africa, a photograph sums it up. At the moment of victory in last month's Rugby World Cup, Francois Pienaar, captain of the Springboks, drops to one knee and raises his hands to his face. It looks for all the world as though he is thanking God for deliverance.

Less than two months earlier, on April 26, Mr. Mandela had celebrated a much larger deliverance. In Pretoria, the administrative capital, Mr. Mandela commemorated Freedom Day — the first anniversary of the advent of majority rule in South Africa. A year after his African National Congress (ANC) swept to power and predominance in a government of national unity, the broad consensus that paved the way for an end to white rule still holds. And with Mr. Mandela at the helm, it seems to grow stronger by the week.

The euphoria surrounding the anniversary, which was matched and even surpassed by the Springboks' moment of glory, could not entirely erase a more grim reality. To be black in South Africa is still, for the great majority, to be down-trodden, impoverished, and cruelly undereducated. But it is no longer to suffer the thousand petty humiliations of apartheid, to be forbidden the right to live and seek work where one chooses, and to be denied the chance to vote for a say in one's future.

To be white is still to be inordinately privileged. In Johannesburg, the nation's largest city, the white suburbs — with their Old Country names like Hyde Park, Sandton, Parkwood — remain oases of space and comfort. Mansions are the norm here, and five or six families live on each block, compared with five or six thousand in the predominantly black neighbourhoods closer to downtown.

Indeed, for suburban whites, it might seem that little has changed from the luxurious days of old. Swimming pools, jacuzzis, and evening braais (barbecues) are staples of their lifestyle. There is no shortage of black domestic workers: the white visitor to Johannesburg can expect to be stopped in the street by middle-aged women, asking the "boss" whether he needs any help around the house.

The consensus that led to South Africa's transition guaranteed whites that the economy would be left largely in private (i.e., their) hands. A Reconstruction and Development Programme is set to funnel billions of rands into improving the lot of the black masses. But more than a year into the era of majority rule, black-owned businesses still account for less than half of one per cent of the capitalised value of the Johannesburg Stock Exchange. South Africa's economic bellwether.

Over 40 per cent of employed Afrikaners (white South Africans of Dutch descent) work for the state. To win their support for the transition, these civil servants were assured that affirmative action would not displace them from their jobs. Blacks, meanwhile, were guaranteed strong proactive measures to ensure that workplaces across South Africa became more "representative" of a society where blacks constitute three-quarters of the population.

Those best able to exploit the new environment are the members of the small black professional class, well educated (often overseas) and upwardly mobile. They, the editor of a local paper told me, are "black gold," eagerly headhunted by white-owned companies anxious to correct the embarrassing colour imbalance in their ranks. Many of the black professionals job-hop every few months for higher pay, a nicer company car, or a posting to Cape Town, away from the grime and crime of "Jo'burg."

They are the lucky ones. The government's extended honeymoon is now at an end, and there is little doubt that it has failed to deliver benefits to the population in line with the extravagant promises Mr. Mandela and Co. made in the run-up to last year's elections.

A much-touted government housing scheme, for example, vowed to erect a million dwellings over five years. Shortly before the first anniversary of majority rule, the government grudgingly came up with a progress report: a mere 878 houses had been built.

Millions of black South Africans still live in squalid conditions, like the residents of the squatter camp I visited on the fringe of Soweto. On two barren fields divided by a small stream, hundreds of tumble-down shacks had been erected from cardboard and corrugated tin.

The impoverished residents may prove fertile ground for the "populist"

wing of the ANC, headed by Mr. Mandela's estranged wife, Winnie. The populists have persistently pointed to the government's coziness with the white elite, at the expense of the dispossessed millions who thrust the ANC into office.

And yet I, a solitary white, was able to wander unmolested through the camp, and through surrounding poor neighbourhoods of Soweto, a black township that is now home to two million people. This shows, just how far South Africa has come from the chaos and carnage of the 1980s and early 1990s.

Even on streets where the Pan-Africanist Congress had painted one of its favourite slogans — "One (white) settler, one bullet" — I encountered only cheery grins and ringing "hellos" from the locals. If I was approached, it was to ask for a coin or a cigarette, or just to chat.

Two years ago, few whites in their right minds would have entered a township, and never alone. The war waged by the South African state against its own people had spilled over into fratricidal blood-letting among blacks. Hundreds were dying here, hacked by pangas (an African killing implement resembling a machete), or mowed down by AK-47 machine guns. Whites like American student Amy Biehl, murdered near Cape Town in 1993, were regularly targeted by black militants.

The violence is still a palpable presence. South Africa has the world's second highest homicide rate, after Colombia, and the overwhelming majority of victims are black. Johannesburg is often called the world's most dangerous city.

Whites in Jo'burg live behind high walls, and car-jackings are a constant threat: there were 3,900 of them last year in one northern suburb alone. A friend of a friend made the mistake of resisting the robber who was about to relieve him of his late-model BMW. The thief pulled a pistol, held it to the owner's head, and said: "This is how it feels to die, white man." He pulled the trigger. By accident or design, the gun didn't fire. The thief sped away with his new prize, leaving the owner gibbering on the ground. Rape, robbery, and street crime are endemic in Jo'burg. "Don't walk downtown ever," one white South African told me. "Take a taxi to where you want to go and call for one to pick you up afterward."

But in three months in the city, I took not a single taxi. I rode public buses and the "combis," minibuses which cater almost exclusively to a black clientele. And I walked — for hours across Jo'burg, and dozens of times downtown, where black street-vendors and roving entrepreneurs have reclaimed the sidewalks from the white suit-and-tie crowd. Not once did I encounter the slightest breath of aggression, animosity or even discourtesy.

Tensions and hostilities remain. I Kwazulu Natal, the leader of the Inkatha Freedom Party (IFP), Mangosuthu Buthelezi, pushes for more regional autonomy, seeking to shore up his coastal power base. Clashes between IFP and ANC supporters still claim many lives in the mining camps and townships.

Then there are the unperturbed whites. Once, waiting for the bus in Johannesburg, I found myself in conversation with an elderly white man who looked back fondly on the time when no blacks could gather at the bus-stop. Say what you will about apartheid, he told me, but you didn't have to put up with blacks jumping the queue.

The man is an anachronism, though there are many like him. Most Afrikaners are accommodating themselves to the new order. Even more readily, English South Africans have accepted that a black liberation movement now rules the roost. "We have delivered a mortal blow to racism," Nelson Mandela pronounced on TV before the Freedom Day celebrations. I believe he was right.

F.W. de Klerk, the last apartheid president, plods along in his new duties as deputy president. On television recently, Mr. Mandela praised his performance. There was a delicious irony in witnessing this black president, a former prisoner of white rule, passing measured judgment on Mr. De Klerk — once Mr. Mandela's jailer, now his junior partner.

Few would argue that Mr. Mandela himself has been the glue that has held the fragile transition process together. His party may founder, but his personal appeal is very nearly universal. At rallies, it is others — Deputy President and his apparent Thabo Mbeki, for example — who get the lukewarm claps, and Mr. Mandela the lusty cheers.

As an orator, Mr. Mandela is far from spectacular. He has a ready voice and a somewhat monotonous, declamatory speaking

style. But as a conversationalist and a peace-seeker, he is supreme. To see him in a televised discussion is to marvel at the craftsmanship of his comments, the keenness of his mind. He is a master strategist and, most would say, a true visionary.

He also seems a humble man. Kaizer Nyatumba, political editor of the Johannesburg Star, told me he felt Mr. Mandela had "dictatorial tendencies" arising from his status and self-image as a "patriarchal African figure." But he allowed that Mr. Mandela is "a very modest man who never takes credit for himself."

The problem, Mr. Nyatumba said, is that "Mandela may well be everything good, but he will not be around every time or forever. His successor will be a very different person altogether."

And Mr. Mandela is 70. South Africans virtually across the racial and political spectrum pray he has another 10 years left in him — of life, if not of active leadership. Long enough for the slow wheels of constitution-building to grind to a conclusion. Long enough for the benefits of majority rule to become apparent to the black masses.

Long enough, above all, for a new sense of society to put down firm roots. For whites to get used to rubbing shoulders with blacks, in the workplace and on the streets. And for blacks to move beyond forgiveness of their former oppressors, to build a common future with white South Africans.

Sidney Mathlaku, features editor of the Sowetan, the largest black-owned paper in South Africa, indicated as much when I asked him for a vision of his paper five years down the road. The Sowetan has long had a reputation as an organ at odds with the ANC leadership, favouring the more radical line of the Pan-Africanist Congress and the Black Consciousness movement.

"I'd love to see a paper that's not for blacks, not for whites, not for (mixed-race) coloureds," Mr. Mathlaku told me. "Whether it's a 'white' story or a 'black' story, if it's a good story we should put it on page one. That's my dream."

The front-page news in South Africa these days is that things so far are working better than almost anyone dared hope.

The writer, who is a Ph.D. candidate conducting research in Jordan, was recently in South Africa. He contributed the above article to the Jordan Times.

A guerrilla war with a difference

By Moses Manoharan
Reuter

COLOMBO — A classic guerrilla war is unfolding in Sri Lanka but with a deadly modern twist.

The government sent thousands of troops, backed by war planes and naval ships, on an offensive on July 9 to crush the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE) on the Jaffna peninsula in the north. The Tigers, who in April called off a truce to resume a 12-year conflict for their own homeland, are in turn employing time-tested "hit-and-run" guerrilla warfare tactics to harass the troops on the ground.

But here the similarity with other long guerrilla wars in Malaya to Vietnam ends.

They are beyond guerrilla fighters, retired army vice marshal Harry Goonaratne, a former chief of the Sri Lankan air force, told Reuters, on Sunday.

"Which guerrilla army in the world has a sea arm. Which guerrilla army in the world has an air arm?" Mr. Goonaratne asked of the bloody conflict, which has killed more than 50,000 people since 1983.

The sighting of an airstrip built by the rebels has led military strategists to believe the rebels have light aircraft.

They already own a fleet of boats converted into attack vessels that they use to harass the Sri Lankan navy and ply the waters around the island.

The LTTE is using these arms with telling effect to counter the advantage enjoyed by the military in the air and on sea.

The Tigers shot down an air force fighter on the very first day of the offensive, code-named Operation Leap Forward, using what diplomats believe was a SAM 7, surface-to-air missile similar to the ones used to shoot down two other air force planes in April.

On sea, the Tigers sent suicide squads to blow up a command ship used to transport troops, food and equipment to Jaffna.

The sinking has disrupted the planned advance of the forces bidding to reach Jaffna city, where 800,000 people live.

Other departures from orthodox guerrilla tactics laid down by exponents from Che Guevara to Mao Tse Tung include the Tigers' use of suicide squads with cyanide capsules around their necks and a willingness to fight conventional battles.

In 1987, an Indian military force sent to Sri Lanka under an accord between the two countries discovered the cost of trying to take Jaffna city from the Tigers in conventional battle.

More recently, the Tigers last month crossed a lagoon and went onto Mandaitivu island and engaged a garrison of 300 troops in what military analysts said was close conventional combat.

The Tigers are also adept in the psychology of war. It appears to be preparing for another bloody fight for Jaffna city, which Tiger chief Velupillai Prabhakaran considers the jewel of his Tamil empire.

The civilian casualties in the assault on the city in 1987 helped turn Tamils against the Indian peacekeeping force.

In brutal fighting, troops belonging to some of the elite units of the Indian army were mowed down by rebels grimly guarding their command centre in Jaffna University.

The Indian army commanders had to bring in artillery and frontline battle tanks to finally subdue the rebels.

Now, Sri Lankan troops, after capturing territory on the peninsula in the first phase of the operation, are poised within striking distance of Jaffna city.

The stage appears set for a showdown.

The Sri Lankan troops are waiting for new purchases of heavy weaponry before making the assault on Jaffna, diplomats say.

But the weapons will get to Sri Lanka only by mid-August, just weeks before the rains come in September, according to the diplo-

Israel is aggressor in conflict with Syria

By Pascal B. Karim

SYRIA AND Israel are presently engaged in negotiations for the withdrawal of Israeli forces from the Syrian Golan Heights, which Israel occupied during its "aggressive" war of 1967. I stress the word "aggressive" because Syria has never attacked Israel either before or after 1967 as will be explained below. The war, which Syria and Egypt launched, with the support of Jordan, in 1973, was to liberate territories from Israeli occupation.

In the aftermath of the 1948 war between Israel on the one hand and Jordan, Syria and Egypt on the other, the United Nations created a United Nations Truce Supervision Organisation (UNTSO) with a Mixed Armistice Commission to supervise the four armistice agreements concluded respectively between Israel and Egypt on February 24, 1949, Israel and Lebanon on March 23, 1949, Israel and Syria on July 20, 1949, and Israel and Jordan on April 3, 1949. The Armistice Agreements did not lay down political boundaries but only armistice lines. In fact, they specifically provided that the armistice lines were delineated "without prejudice to the ultimate peaceful settlement of the Palestine question." They also expressly reserved "the rights, claims and positions of the parties in an ultimate settlement between the parties."

Pursuant to the Armistice Agreement concluded between Syria and Israel, certain demilitarised zones on Palestinian and Syrian territories were created to be supervised by the Mixed Armistice Commission (MAC). The MAC's task was to investigate and report on any border incidents between Syria and Israel. Similar commissions were formed between Egypt and Israel and between Jordan and Israel to supervise the respective borders between them. (Each Mixed Commission comprised one member from the Arab state concerned, one member from Israel and a chairman appointed from a foreign neutral country).

Despite the Armistice Agreement between Syria and Israel and the creation of demilitarised zones between them, Israel has never ceased to encroach upon the demilitarised territory and upon Arab owned lands either directly or through settlers, Israeli settlers, supported usually by the Israeli army, often moved their tractors on Arab owned lands despite the warnings addressed by the Mixed Armistice Commission chairman that their actions constituted a flagrant violation of the Armistice Agreement. Those actions naturally provoked reactions on the part of the Syrians and of the Arab owners who fired at the Israeli tractors. Moreover Israel consistently inter-

fered with the movements of the United Nations observers, whose job it was to prevent Israeli settlers from forcibly encroaching upon Arab lands. Even Israel precipitated incidents by using "armoured landing craft with machine guns and cannons posing as police boats on Lake Tiberias in order to illegally prohibit Syrian access to the lake." Many of such incidents are reported in the books published by the Norwegian Odd Bull, the former UNTSO chief of staff and by General Burns also a former UNTSO chief of staff.

General Burns noted in his book "Between Arab and Israeli," the following: "The Israelis claimed sovereignty over the demilitarised zones. They then proceeded, as opportunity offered, to encroach on the specific restrictions, and so eventually to free themselves, on various pretexts, from all of them. The Israelis in fact exercised almost complete control over the majority of the demilitarised zones through their frontier police. This was directly contrary to Article V of the General Armistice Agreement."

Several Security Council resolutions were passed against Israel whether as regards its violations of the Armistice Agreements or with regard to its subsequent occupation and annexation of the Golan Heights in 1967 and 1981 respectively.

In Resolution No. 93 of May 18, 1951, the Security

Council ordered Israel to allow the return of the Arab civilians to their villages in the demilitarised zone; civilians who had been previously forced to flee from their Israeli armed units. On Dec. 11, 1955 the Israeli army launched a full-scale attack on villages and military positions on Syrian territory. The UNTSO called Israel's attack completely unjustified. Subsequently, the Security Council passed Resolution No. 111 of January 19, 1956 whereby it condemned this attack as a "flagrant violation of the ceasefire provisions of its Resolution No. 54 of 1948, of the terms of the General Armistice Agreement between Israel and Syria and Israel's obligations under the Charter of the United Nations."

On March 17, 1962, Israeli forces attacked Syrian territory, that resulted in an exchange of fire causing casualties on both sides. The UNTSO chief of staff condemned this as a violation of the Armistice Agreement. Subsequently, the Security Council passed Resolution 171 of April 9, 1962, whereby it reaffirmed its Resolution 111 quoted above and condemned "Israel military action in breach of the General Armistice Agreement whether or not undertaken by way of retaliation and determined that Israel attack of March 16-17 1962 constituted a flagrant violation of that Resolution and called upon Israel to refrain

from such action in the future."

Despite all the above-quoted resolutions, Israel was never deterred. It continued to encroach upon Syrian territory by bringing bulldozers to cultivate lands inside Syrian territory. Syria naturally responded by firing on the bulldozers whenever they crossed the border lines. Adopting a Machiavellian policy, Israel used all those incidents as a pretext for ultimately starting the war of 1967 which resulted in the occupation of the Golan Heights. On Nov. 22, 1967, the Security Council passed the well-known 242 Resolution which provided inter alia, that Israel should withdraw its armed forces from territories occupied in the recent conflict and enunciated in its preamble the principle of international law, namely the "inadmissibility of acquisition of territory by war." In 1981, Israel annexed the Golan Heights but the Security Council decided in its Resolution 497 of 1981 that this annexation was "null and void and without international legal effect."

Under international law, Israel is bound to restore the Golan Heights to Syria and the sooner it does so the better for the Middle East comprehensive peace. No matter how much Israel prevaricates or procrastinates in the negotiations with Syria, it must ultimately return the Golan Heights to their rightful owners.

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Features

Emperors, gods, revolts and political retribution: Reconstructing architectural, political history of Jerash

This is the second of a two-part series. The first part appeared in yesterday's newspaper.

By Rami G. Khouri
Special to the Jordan Times

THE NEXT phase of the city's expansion coincided with two other important political developments in the region — the visit of the Roman Emperor Hadrian in 129/130 A.D., and the second Jewish revolt in 130-135 A.D. The South Gate was built at Jerash to welcome Hadrian to the city, and he prompted the city's leaders to expand the city to the south. They then built Hadrian's Arch 400 metres to the south, and drew up plans to expand the city in that direction. This urban expansion would have seen the Zeus complex occupying the central point in the city.

In the period 130-150 A.D., though, the Zeus Temple complex was again destroyed and rebuilt as a smaller sanctuary, and suddenly the large Temple of

Artemis complex was built on a higher hill inside the city. All major new buildings as of that moment are clustered around the Artemis complex, and Hadrian's Arch is left standing alone south of and well outside the city.

What happened to prompt this sudden change in the town plan? Mr. Seigne's hypothesis suggests that perhaps during the second Jewish revolt Jerash experienced a repeat of the circumstances of the first Jewish revolt.

If the Jerash population again sided with its Jewish population against the Roman emperor, it is possible that the emperor destroyed the Zeus Temple complex in order to show his anger with the people of Jerash. Then he may have backed a different faction of people within Jerash whose symbol of political power was the new Artemis Temple. Perhaps, the new power elite in Jerash comprised remnants or descendants of the former local Semitic population who had been marginalised in the previous century by the Helle-

nistic population that had built the Zeus complex as its own symbol of political control.

According to this theory, it was more practical to build a new temple to Artemis bigger than the Zeus Temple, and it would have been too costly and complicated to remove the Zeus complex and replace it with the Artemis complex on the same spot. The new Artemis complex thus became simultaneously the new symbol of political control at Jerash, as well as the new focal point for town planning. The southern expansion of the city towards Hadrian's Arch was abandoned, and expansion of the city as of around 150 A.D. occurred on an axis that revolved around the Temple of Artemis. Artemis became the official main deity of the city — a profoundly political act that humiliated those Jerash citizens who had made the mistake of backing the Jewish revolt against the emperor. The city adapted to the new cult of Artemis because this female deity was often seen as a Greco-Roman parallel to the

Semitic goddess Astarte, who was probably the main deity of the indigenous Semitic population.

This change in Jerash's principal gods and temples might explain why, as of the mid-2nd century A.D., the eastern quarter of the city was built up, following the construction of the first bridge across the river — a bridge that linked the eastern city (the current modern city) with the approach to the Temple of Artemis. In the second half of the 2nd century A.D., consequently, Jerash witnessed the construction of its two main colonnaded streets (the North and South Decumani) that crossed the Cardo in an east-west direction, the east baths, the North Theatre and other monuments that related to the Artemis complex rather than to the Zeus complex.

This theory suggests that Greco-Roman urban planning at Jerash only started with the construction of the Artemis Temple complex, for in the previous Hellenistic period the town only witnessed the expansion of the Zeus complex, without a fully-fledged urban town plan to go along with it.

The expansion of the city as of the second half of the 2nd century A.D. is well attested in the archaeological excavations that have been conducted in the last several decades. Those excavations also show another change in the city's architectural history later that century. About one generation after the second Jewish revolt, work suddenly stopped on the Artemis complex, which was never completed, and the Zeus Temple complex was rebuilt in its existing form, with a new hilltop temple even bigger than the Artemis Temple.

The Temple of Zeus appears to have been deliberately built slightly larger than the Artemis temple; its facade is 2.4 metres wider than Artemis, and it had eight rather than six columns in its facade. It was also completely finished and used, as opposed to the unfinished Artemis Temple.

What might explain these facts? Again, political/economic factors may be the reason. Ms. Seigne's hypothesis that with the declining ability of the Roman emperors to continue

supporting and financing the Artemis Temple construction works of their local allies, the faction in Jerash whose previous political power had been represented by the Zeus Temple complex — probably the wealthiest merchants — once again enjoyed political ascendancy at Jerash. Work had to be abandoned on Artemis, and instead the city's economically dominant faction rebuilt Zeus as the biggest religious/political focal point of the city.

This is purely a hypothesis that is constructed mainly on the strength of the evidence of the architectural story that is revealed by the excavations. No available literary evidence supports this theory; but there is a near-parallel that may be explained by similar circumstances — in Amman. Perhaps, Mr. Seigne suggests, we can explain the presence of the remains of two Roman temples on the Amman Citadel by the same regional and local political factors that may have resulted in the construction of two large temples at Jerash.

Sharif Zeid

(Continued from page 1)

with Kuwait, once they improve with Saudi Arabia," he said. He added that Mr. Kabarti was expected to visit Saudi Arabia soon.

Asked whether it was possible that the international community could not make an exemption to Jordan to help and trade with Iraq since Jordan did not manufacture weapons, Sharif Zeid said that "we are doing all we can do to help the Iraqi people. The Iraqis have made great sacrifices for the Arab causes" along the years.

Sharif Zeid said that during a meeting with Palestinian leader Faisal Hussein Sunday, he reiterated Jordan's commitment to help the Palestinians attain their rights.

"There are certain parties that are attempting to poison our relations (with the Palestinians)," he said. "But our objective is to (help the Palestinians) end the occupation. We have no plan to annex the West Bank" as some might think. Once the Palestinians attained their independence and regained their free will, we will talk about future relations," he said.

The prime minister revealed that the government has agreed with the House

Judiciary and Finance Committee to introduce a clause to the draft law concerning the boycott of Israel. The amendment prohibits Jordanians owning land in the occupied West Bank, including Jerusalem, from selling to Israel.

Asked why would Jordan keep its troops in the former Yugoslavia despite the deteriorating situation there, the prime minister, said the 3,500 troops were part of the U.N. peacekeeping forces and can only be pulled out if the U.N. decided to end their mandate.

"Besides, if we withdrew unilaterally our troops will be in danger," he said. "But we have full understanding with the French and will act in full cooperation with the French government" on the issue.

The Prime Minister acknowledged reports that the government was preparing new custom tariff lists but declined to give any details.

The luncheon was attended by Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Information Khalid Karaki. The journalists represented the mainstream press, the tabloids and political parties newspapers. None of the leftist or Islamist newspapers' editors were present.

Jordan urges

(Continued from page 1)

earlier Sunday, was expected to meet Prime Minister Zeid Ben Shaker and possibly King Hussein during his two-day stay.

In comments to the press, Mr. Papoulas said he also discussed with Mr. Kabarti progress in the U.S.-backed Middle East

peace process.

They signed a protocol that consolidates cooperation between their foreign ministries.

On Monday, he was scheduled to initial a maritime accord reached in January and review a cultural agreement signed in 1992.

West reinforces troops

(Continued from page 1)

including NATO air strikes, if the Serbs attacked "safe areas."

The besieged enclave of Zepa was rocked by mortar, tank and machine-gun fire on Sunday with heavy casualties among the town's defenders, a U.N. spokesman said.

"We have reports of more than 60 mortar impacts in the town as well as tank, heavy machine-gun and sniper fire," said Lieutenant Colonel Gary Coward, a U.N. spokesman in Sarajevo. "The local police station has been heavily engaged and there are reports of large numbers of BiH (Bosnian government army) casualties," he added.

As fighting for the U.N.-designated "safe area" continued, Bosnian radio reported representatives of government and separatist Serbs were meeting at Sarajevo's airport to discuss the evacuation of the sick and wounded from the town.

Zepa has been on the verge of falling since Wednesday when Bosnian Serb commander General Ratko Mladic prematurely announced its surrender. U.N. efforts to mediate a surrender of the enclave have borne no fruit despite several airport meetings.

Mr. Chirac said Western

military chiefs planned to inform the Bosnian Serbs on Sunday of the results of the London meeting.

U.N. officers reported heavy fighting across Bosnia on Sunday. The Bosnian Serbs renewed their assault of the eastern "safe area" of Zepa and joined with Croatian Serbs and a rebel Muslim militia in an attack on the northern Bihac area.

President Bill Clinton said U.S. air power should be used in Bosnia if Serb aggression continued, especially against the "safe haven" of Gorazde, but reiterated that U.S. ground troops would not be sent into combat.

"I do believe we should use American air power if the Serbian aggression continues to erode the commitments that they have all made, for example, to respect the integrity of Gorazde," Mr. Clinton told C-Span television.

Commenting on reinforcements for Sarajevo, British Defence Secretary Michael Portillo said: "There is no shift in any sense from peacekeeping to war fighter. We simply wish to provide protection to peacekeepers who are trying to save lives in Bosnia... if we could have a secure overland route that would be the best guarantee on the survival of Sarajevo and its people."

NEWS IN BRIEF

Rival Kurd factions battle in Iraq

DAMASCUS (AFP) — Fresh fighting between rival Kurdish factions in northern Iraq has virtually destroyed the town of Rawanduz, the Patriotic Union of Kurdistan (PUK) said here Sunday. The PUK spokesman in Damascus, Salah Barani, told AFP that fighting broke out late Saturday between his faction and the Kurdistan Democratic Party (KDP) in the Wadi Khankah region. "The KDP almost completely destroyed" Rawanduz, Mr. Barani added. "There were injuries among PUK troops while the KDP suffered enormous losses." KDP officials here could not be reached for comment. Several dozen people were killed and wounded in fighting between the two Kurdish factions in northern Iraq in early July.

Pope says victims of unjust wars have a right to defence

LES COMBES, Italy (AFP) — Pope John Paul II, speaking on vacation in the Aosta Valley on Saturday, said that the civilian populations falling victim to unjust wars have a right to defence. "Only a defensive war can be a just war," the pontiff told reporters. "Certainly it poses problems. Defensive war is painful, but it is so. If someone attacks and wants to trample life and the right to live, there exists the right to defence." The Pope noted that he had wanted to travel to Sarajevo one year ago, but his trip was cancelled due to security concerns.

Committee on press law adds 4 members

CAIRO (AFP) — An Egyptian committee created to reconsider a controversial press law met with four new delegates added after opposition protests over its original make-up, the government daily Al-Ahram said Sunday. Kamel Zoheiri, former head of the Journalists' Union, whom the opposition press had requested for the committee, also joined, as well as Mahmoud Tahami, president of the semi-governmental weekly Rose Al-Yousef, Al-Ahram said. The committee decided Saturday to give its members three weeks to review press laws from other countries, the paper said. Opposition papers erupted in protest when the original 30 members of the committee, chosen by the government, were announced on July 17, including only members of the ruling National Democratic Party and official newspapers.

Israeli troops massacred 35 Egyptians in 1956: study

TEL AVIV (AFP) — A right-wing Israeli deputy commander an army battalion which massacred 35 Egyptian prisoners during the 1956 Suez conflict, a study written by the army's history department said Sunday. Soldiers from the 890th Paratroop Battalion commanded by Rafael Eitan, later chief of staff and now leader of the Tsomet Party, shot the Egyptian troops in October 1956, the study, published in the Jerusalem Post, said. The official history, entitled "The 1956 Sinai War: Political and Military Aspects" was written by Dr. Motti Golan, the daily said. The report, authorised for publication by former chief of staff Ehud Barak, who became interior minister in Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin's government last week, is the first of its kind to be declassified by the army. It describes how the paratroopers, and a smaller unit commanded by the celebrated military leader Ariel Sharon, were stranded and exposed to Egyptian attacks shortly after landing near the Mitla Pass in the Sinai desert, 12 kilometres from the Suez Canal. They took 35 prisoners and held them in a compound but soon shot them.

Police: Father beheads son

ESTANCIA, New Mexico (AP) — A father beheaded his 14-year-old son along a busy interstate as his younger son watched, fled with the boy's head in his van, and then tossed it out the window as police chased him, authorities said Saturday. The father, Eric Star Smith, 34, of Parker, Arizona, was captured in Albuquerque early Saturday. A 64-kilometre police chase ended when Mr. Smith's van crashed into a retaining wall, authorities said. He faces arraignment Monday on charges of murder and tampering with evidence. Mr. Smith stabbed his son, Eric Star Smith Jr., several times Friday night and decapitated him along a highway near the central New Mexico town of Moriarty, said Torrance County Sheriff Don Lyles. Mr. Smith raced away with the boy's head in the van, throwing it out the window about a kilometre down the highway, Mr. Lyles said. The head was found near a concrete barrier in the roadway median.

Gulf, West to conduct wargames

RIYADH (AFP) — Gulf Arab forces and their Western allies will conduct war games in Kuwait in March next year, a senior military official said Sunday. General Fahd Al-Sharh, assistant secretary general for military affairs in the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC), told the Saudi daily Okaz that the manoeuvres were a show of force to "whoever seeks to destabilise the region."

Kurdish group goes on hunger strike

ISTANBUL (R) — A Kurdish association said on Sunday it started a five-day hunger strike to protest against the refusal by security officials to allow 10 of its members to enter the Kurdish city of Tunceli in eastern Turkey. The Tunceli Cultural and Solidarity Association in Istanbul sent 10 people to Tunceli last week to investigate alleged human rights abuses against civilians by soldiers fighting Kurdish guerrillas. But security officials at the city limits refused to allow the group in, saying there was fighting in the area, the association's chairman Selman Yesilgoz told Reuters. Since security forces stepped up operations in Tunceli province last year, human rights groups say dozens of Kurdish villages have been forcibly evacuated and often burned by soldiers trying to deny militants from the Kurdistan Workers Party (PKK) food and shelter. Security officials often deny journalists — and sometimes even Turkish politicians — access to villages in the mainly Kurdish east and southeast.

Hebron settlers behave almost like Serbs: Israeli minister

TEL AVIV (AFP) — An Israeli minister on Sunday said Jewish settlers living in the West Bank Palestinian town of Hebron were behaving "almost like Serbs," provoking an angry backlash from the colonists. Outspoken Communications and Culture Minister Shulamit Aloni said: "It is necessary to distinguish between those fighting what they consider a foreign regime (the Palestinians) and the settlers who consider themselves conquerors and behave almost like Serbs." Her comparison with the Bosnian Serbs, made in an interview with state radio, received short shrift from the settlers. Their spokesman, Noam Aron said: "It is the Arabs who behaved like Serbs towards us by massacring our women and children in Hebron in 1929. We will stay in Hebron for eternity. That's a historical reality." In its peace negotiations with the PLO on extending Palestinian self-rule in the West Bank, Israel has so far refused to evacuate Hebron, where 400 Jewish settlers live in the centre of town surrounded by 120,000 Palestinians.

UAE gives 11 million dollars for Bosnians

ABU DHABI (AFP) — The United Arab Emirates (UAE) has donated 40 million dirhams (11 million dollars) to support Bosnian Muslims against the Serbs, the official news agency WAM reported on Sunday. President Sheikh Zayed bin Sultan Al Nahayan has ordered the donation to "support the Bosnian people and ease their suffering from Serb violations and ethnic cleansing," it quoted an unnamed official as saying. "The donation stems from our stand which upholds right and justice to help put an end to that human tragedy and mass annihilation and to enable the Bosnian people to defend themselves," it said. Sheikh Zayed, 79, has emerged as a key financial supporter of Bosnian Muslims during their three-year-old war against the Serbs. In press comments this week, he blasted the United Nations and called for lifting its arms embargo against Bosnians after Serb troops entered Srebrenica and advanced towards nearby Zepa.

9 killed in Colombia

MEDELLIN, Colombia (AFP) — Tonnes of mud and rock crashed down a mountainside Saturday, burying dozens of houses in a town in northeastern Colombia and killing at least nine people, officials said. The Red Cross reported 23 people injured and about 50 others missing in the town of Fredonia, in the northeastern department of Antioquia. Mudslides triggered by heavy rains buried between 30 and 50 houses on either side of the main road through Fredonia, the local mayor told the Red Cross. The bodies of nine people were retrieved from the rubble but rescue efforts were hampered by the blocked roads, the loss of power and telephone service and the nightfall, authorities said.

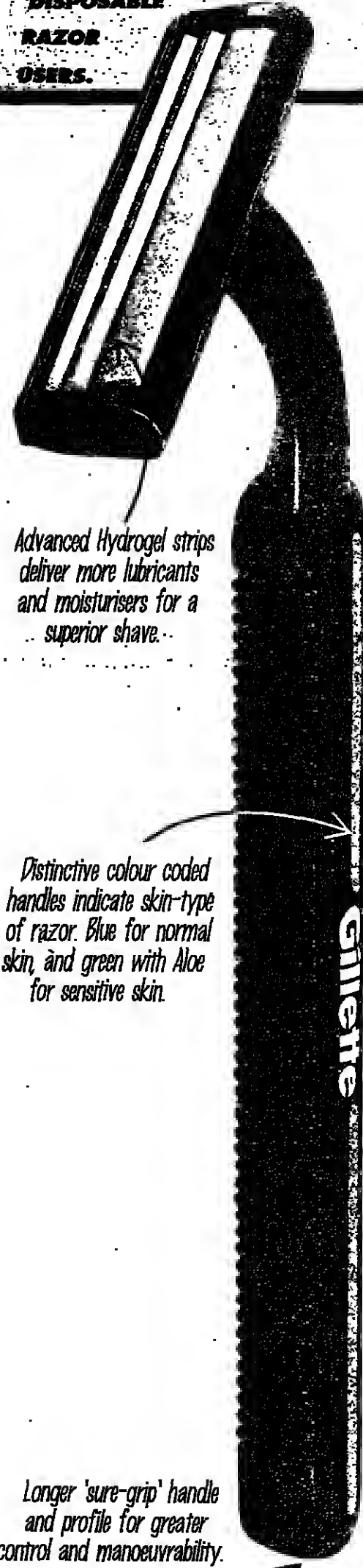
'16 Arab troops killed in Bosnia'

KUWAIT CITY (AFP) — A Kuwaiti and 15 other Arab volunteers have been killed while fighting in the Muslim-led Bosnian army against Serb forces, the Kuwait press reported Sunday. Adel Mohammad Suleiman Al Ghanem, a Kuwaiti, was among 16 Arabs who died Friday in fighting against Serb forces, the official KUNA news agency said in an unconfirmed report. The 32-year-old, who left Kuwait for Bosnia a year ago, died at dawn during clashes around "Serb positions," the Al Watan daily added Sunday, publishing a photograph of the "martyr." Adel led a group of Arab mujahideen (holy warriors) which the Bosnian government had tasked with defending security pockets close to Sarajevo. Al Watan said. "The group led several attacks against Serb forces, including the last one at dawn Friday which targeted Serb forces trying to enter Gorazde and Zepa," it said. "The mujahideen were able to seize a tank and two missile batteries from the enemy during this battle in which Adel died," it said. "Serb forces suffered human and material losses in this battle which ended with the death of 15 other Arab fighters and five Bosnians," the newspaper said.

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Business Daily Beat

A review of economic news from the Arabic press

NRA's prospecting for oil grave mistake

Director General of the Natural Resources Authority (NRA) Fakhr Eddin Daghestani said the authority was not qualified to prospect for oil because it lacks the needed expertise. Delivering a lecture at the Amman-Philadelphia Rotary Club, Mr. Daghestani said entrusting the NRA with prospect for oil in the 1980s was a grave mistake. Saying highly-qualified companies in industrialised countries face many difficulties in conducting studies and prospecting works, Mr. Daghestani asked how the authority, which is a government institution, could be requested to carry out such works. Such a process, he said, is very complicated and the authority, with its limited human resources, cannot conduct studies that might cost \$80 million. He said since the beginning of the 1980s till the beginning of 1994 the authority spent about \$300 million on prospecting for oil and gas. The NRA director general attributed the failure to find oil in commercial quantities in Jordan to the lack of serious work (Al Aswaq).

** The Cabinet agreed to second two financial experts to the Palestinian self-rule areas for a one-year term that can be renewed. The two experts will be helping the Palestine National Authority (PNA) in preparing general budgets and other financial matters. In its meeting Saturday under the chairmanship of Prime Minister Sharif Zeid Ben Shaker, the Cabinet also approved signing a protocol with France, under whose terms the French government would offer 96 million French francs (JD 14.5 million) to finance several development projects. The minister of finance was authorised to sign the protocol on behalf of the government. The Cabinet also approved exchanging memoranda with Japan on a grant agreement. Under the agreement, Japan will offer Jordan a \$50-million-yen grant (about \$6,400,000) to be used in purchasing agricultural equipment (Al Dustour).

** A ministerial committee approved converting the Public Transport Corporation into a commercial, public shareholding company before privatising it. The committee also entrusted a German company with the task of conducting studies and field surveys on the transport sector in Jordan. The German company will have to present its conclusions to the Council of Ministers within less than nine months (Al Ra'i).

** Director General of the Amman Financial Market (AFM) Umayya Touqan denied that a Jewish bank was granted approval to invest in the Jordanian bourse. The statement was made in response to an article published by Al Aswaq Thursday which said that a Jewish bank was granted such an approval two years ago (Al Aswaq).

Drowsy Arab markets stable, set to continue slow

DUBAI (R) — Arab stocks were quiet last week, with dealers expecting trade to continue slow in the next few weeks due to the absence in the market of major investors who are away on summer holidays.

Kuwait remained the star performer, with the mid-year stock rally rolling steadily on thanks to good company results and hopes that parliament will pass a bill easing repayment terms for \$20 billion in bad debt owed partly by some listed firms. The overall index jumped 2.3 per cent, or 26 points, in the week to 1,130 — its highest level since it was revived

last year. The index was suspended for 3½ years after Iraq's 1990 invasion of Kuwait.

Volumes kept to their recent ascent, rising another 2.9 per cent in the week. Among blue chips, mobile communications jumped 3.6 per cent to 860 fils and commercial facilities rose 1.3 per cent to 780 fils. Burgan Bank was steady at 192.

A flurry of buying activity late in the week helped revive market confidence in Egypt, after weeks of falling prices and heavy-handed official intervention denied investor sentiment.

This helped slow the recent

slide in the index, which closed slightly down at 211.90 points from the previous week's 212.69.

Early in the week exchange officials blocked sell orders from being registered on the exchange system. On Sunday the bourse president twice halted trading when shares kept slipping.

Stocks on the unofficial United Arab Emirates bourse mostly stuck close to recent levels, with the National Bank of Abu Dhabi index edging up 5.73 points to 1,868.53.

Share prices were little changed in Qatar and Saudi

Arabia. In Oman, industrials led the market slightly higher, but dealers said there was solid demand for insurance shares.

Investors remained sidelined in Jordan amid different interpretations of a state package of economic reforms.

In Bahrain, the index edged up almost 111 points to 1,312.08.

Solidere shares on the Beirut secondary market stuck in a tight band to close only slightly lower, despite a one-day general strike during the week which paralysed Lebanon.

Iran cleric urges tough penalties in fraud case

NICOSIA (R) — A senior Iranian cleric has accused the judiciary of favouring "big shots" and called for harsh penalties in a high-profile fraud case involving the brother of a powerful government figure.

"When people of low rank commit a crime or an offence, they are immediately pursued, imprisoned, locked

up and ruined," Ayatollah Ali Akbar Meshkini said in a sermon in the holy city of Qom.

"However when we find some big shot, they merely move him from one town to another and give him another post, maybe even higher than his previous post."

The sermon, reported by Iranian Television and moni-

tored by the British Broadcasting Corporation on Saturday night, appealed directly to top Judge Ayatollah Mohammad Yazdi who on Friday denounced government critics as undermining the Islamic system.

"Ayatollah Yazdi, the big shots are those very people who have stolen 1.2 billion rials," Ayatollah Meshkini said in a reference to the case in which the brother and seven other men are accused of defrauding state-run bank saderat of an amount worth about \$400 million at the official exchange rate and of sabotaging Iran's economy.

The accused, Mr. Rafiq Rafiqdoust, who was reappointed by supreme leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei on Saturday as head of Bonyad-e Mostafazafan-va-Janbazan (Foundation for the deprived and war disabled).

The foundation is Iran's largest economic organisation running industries worth billions of dollars from car plants to hotels.

Mohsen Rafiqdoust, who is also a senior Revolutionary Guards officer, is not directly

involved in the case. But the court asked him on Tuesday to give evidence in the case which is widely seen in Iran as a challenge to one of its most powerful figures.

Speaking of those charged in Iran's largest fraud trial since the 1979 Islamic revolution, Ayatollah Meshkini said in his appeal to Mr. Yazdi: "These are your big shots. Their offence is bigger than their brains. Now, I am making this plea for justice. We hope you will carry out your duties and gain the people's attention."

Mr. Yazdi has been criticised in the Iranian media for alleged inaction over the case which was only brought into the open this year, four years after the fraud was said to have been committed.

The judicial authorities should "take the utmost care to find the culprits level 10 to the public the offences committed identify the offenders — whoever they may be and whatever their positions, past records or uniform," Ayatollah Meshkini said.

The authorities should "suck the money out of their filthy guts, firmly and decisively and give them what they deserve," he added.

JORDAN FINANCIAL MARKET				
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ORGANIZED MARKET SHARE PRICE LIST FOR SUNDAY 23/07/1995				
COMPANY'S NAME	NO. OF SHARES TRADED	VALUE TRADED JD	PREV. CLOSING PRICE	CLOSING PRICE
ARAB BANK PSC	160	33990	208.000	214.000
JORDAN NATIONAL BANK	3450	15421	4.450	4.500
BANK OF JORDAN	600	2127	3.380	3.380
MIDDLE EAST INVESTMENT BANK	6100	8025	1.300	1.330
INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT BANK	800	2040	2.540	2.550
THE HOUSING BANK	449	3577	8.000	8.000
JORDAN KUNAAT BANK	2338	17921	2.800	2.800
JORDAN ISLAMIC BANK	15200	17921	1.150	1.190
UNION BANK FOR SAVINGS & INVESTMENT	651	2423	3.700	3.730
JORDAN INVESTMENT & FINANCE BANK	1000	4350	4.350	4.350
SAUDI ARABIAN BANK FOR INVESTMENT	250	1000	4.000	4.000
SAUDI ARABIAN BANK FOR INVESTMENT	100	367	3.600	3.610
ARAB BANK FOR INVESTMENT	29500	32450	1.090	1.100
ARAB BANKING CORPORATION/JORDAN	170	901	5.250	5.300
PHILADELPHIA INVESTMENT BANK	18918	31847	1.640	1.710
BANKS SECTOR	79716	163030	INDEX NUMBER: 177.68	CHANGE: +2.267
JORDAN FRENCH INSURANCE	4810	12969	2.670	2.700
INSURANCE SECTOR	4810	12969	INDEX NUMBER: 136.27	CHANGE: +0.147
JORDANIAN ELECTRIC POWER	92260	151010	1.570	1.650
ARAB INTERNATIONAL HOTELS	5000	28000	5.700	5.600
JORDAN INTERNATIONAL SETTING LINES	1425	1425	2.810	2.860
NATIONAL PORTFOLIO SECURITIES	1750	2838	2.100	2.210
JORDAN INTERNATIONAL TRADING CENTER	550	665	1.190	1.210
MACHINERY EQUIP. REPAIRING & MAINTENANCE	1500	1025	0.690	0.690
UNITED MIDDLE EAST & COMMERCE HOTELS	1150	1152	2.160	2.270
ARAB INTER. FOR INVESTMENT & EDUCATION	7700	25000	3.260	3.240
SERVICES SECTOR	114510	222544	INDEX NUMBER: 128.60	CHANGE: +1.011
THE JORDAN CEMENT FACTORIES	5074	18334	3.560	3.650
JORDAN PHOSPHATE MINES	2850	8641	3.000	3.040
THE ARAB POTASH	295	1487	5.100	5.080
JORDAN PETROLEUM REFINERY	1027	10592	10.220	10.450
JORDAN TANNING	190	1528	8.000	8.000
JORDAN PHARMACEUTICAL MANUFACTURING	4112	19901	4.820	4.900
JORDAN CERAMIC INDUSTRIES	1300	7605	5.900	5.850
JORDAN OILRY	750	1688	2.250	2.250
THE JORDAN PAPER MANUFACTURING	350	893	2.550	2.550
JORDAN PAPER & CARDBOARD FACTORIES	250	963	3.850	3.850
SPINNING & WEAVING	500	1005	1.950	2.010
ARAB INVESTMENT & INTERNATIONAL TRADE	1240	3794	7.750	7.900
ARAB ALUMINUM INDUSTRY	6650	4944	0.730	0.750
LIVESTOCK & POULTRY	1075	5643	5.200	5.250
ARAB FARMING & TRADING	17000	3385	0.480	0.500
NATIONAL CABLE & WIRE MANUFACTURING	2100	2908	1.350	1.400
NATIONAL STEEL INDUSTRY	500	1175	2.350	2.350
NATIONAL INDUSTRIES	9050	9699	1.070	1.070
JORDAN ROCKWOOL INDUSTRIES	250	273	1.080	1.090
INTERNATIONAL CABLE & WIRE MANUFACTURING	250	1236	4.900	4.970
JORDAN PULP & CHEMICALS	500	809	1.610	1.610
ARAB CENTER FOR PHARM. & CHEMICALS	350	1889	2.170	2.230
KANTHER INVESTMENT	200	310	1.550	1.550
UNIVERSAL WOODEN INDUSTRIES	3250	10733	3.170	3.350
JORDAN INDUSTRIAL RESOURCES CO.	29233	61890	2.040	2.120
JORDAN NEW CABLE COMPANY	1900	3360	1.700	1.790
INDUSTRIAL SECTOR	90779	195815	INDEX NUMBER: 126.46	CHANGE: +1.912
GRAND TOTAL	289815	594357	INDEX NUMBER: 153.34	CHANGE: +1.912
NO. OF TRADED SHARES IN PARALLEL MARKET		134532		
VALUE TRADED IN PARALLEL MARKET		143406		

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Bahraini firm in \$30m deal

MANAMA (R) — The Bahrain-based Islamic Investment Company of the Gulf (IICG) said on Sunday it would provide a \$30 million syndicated lease financing facility to two Pakistani firms.

A company statement said National Refinery Limited and Sui Southern Gas Limited would each get \$15 million. Both companies are 80 per cent controlled by the Pakistani government.

An IICG official said the three-year financing facilities

would be used to purchase equipment for refining and gas transmission. The agreements were signed in London on Friday.

Last month, IICG said it would provide a \$25 million syndicated jet fuel financing facility to PIA Investments Limited, a subsidiary of Pakistan International Airlines (PIA).

IICG is the investment banking arm of the Geneva-based Dar Al Mub Al Islami group.

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Indurain wins record 5th Tour de France title

LIMOGES, France (AP) — Miguel Indurain won the Tour de France for a record fifth consecutive time Sunday, finishing the 20th and final stage with a lead of 4 minutes, 35 seconds over his nearest rival.

He finished in the pack on the Champs Elysees on a bright sunny day that emphasised the yellow jersey he has worn since July 9, when he won the 8th stage individual time trial.

Belgian Eddy Merckx, Frenchmen Jacques Anquetil and Bernard Hinault have also won five tours but Indurain was the first who did it in consecutive years.

Alex Zülle of Switzerland was second, the fifth different runner-up to Indurain in the Tour de France. Bjarne Riis of Denmark was third, more than six minutes behind.

Sunday's stage was a largely ceremonial ride from St. Genevieve des Bois to Paris, 155 kilometres to end on the Champs Elysees.

Djamolidine Abdoujaparov of Uzbekistan won the final stage usually reserved for sprinters in the final eight laps up and down the famous French Avenue.

Indurain's Banesto teammates led him onto the Champs the first time to the cheers of the crowd estimated

at about 500,000 people with numerous Spanish fans and flags in view.

Then Indurain stayed mostly in the back of the pack for the final ride. Usually he was in the front, watching over things but he preferred to stay out of the way of the mad sprint to the finish Sunday in sharp contrast to the rest of the 23 days.

Indurain showed he was in control all the way on the clockwise loop of approximately 3,635 kilometres. He demonstrated that in four consecutive stages on the second weekend when he took the first individual time trial and was second in three different types of stages that put the distance between him and his major rivals.

In the mountains he would let his teammates pace him then took over in the final climb to minimise the margins and sometimes put gaps on his major rivals who could not keep up the pace day-after-day.

Although Indurain's margin was his smallest since 1991 when he won by 3:36 over Gianni Bugno, there was still little doubt he was still the dominant rider from the start.

Zülle was the fifth different person to come in second behind Indurain.



Miguel Indurain

De Ferran grabs pole in Cleveland

CLEVELAND (R) — Brazilian IndyCar rookie Gil de Ferran used a record-setting qualifying lap Saturday to break Canadian Jacques Villeneuve's recent stranglehold on the pole position for Cleveland Grand Prix, which was to start late Sunday.

The 28-year-old de Ferran, driving a Reynard Mercedes-Benz, snatched the pole on the last lap of qualifying with an all-time road circuit speed record for an Indy Car.

With a track record time of 57.815 seconds, the Brazilian recorded a qualifying speed of 147.512 miles per hour (237.391 kph) on the Burke

Lakefront Airpark Road Circuit to earn his first IndyCar series pole in only his 12th career race.

Villeneuve, who had started from pole in the last three races, was second fastest in 57.826 in his Reynard Ford-Cosworth.

De Ferran said that after a disappointing morning practice, his crew found a better set-up for the car. The rest was up to the Brazilian. "For qualifying, we made the car better and then it was a matter of what is called taking the car to the limit," he said.

Villeneuve, the series championship leader with

three wins this season, had made a habit of winning the pole on his last qualifying lap. On Saturday, however, Villeneuve's fastest lap came much earlier.

"We did our last lap half-way through the session so I knew we were in trouble," admitted the Canadian whose late attempt for a faster lap on the 10-turn, 2.369-mile

13.812 km) circuit was hampered by traffic.

"On those last two laps while I was on a fast lap, two other competitors were in my way," Villeneuve explained.

American Bryan Herta jumped from 15th to third place on the 27-car starting grid in his Reynard Ford-Cosworth with a time of 57.58.

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INVITATION TO RETENDER THE SUPPLY OF EQUIPMENT TO THE NEW FACILITY OF EDUCATION SCIENCES AT MU'TAH UNIVERSITY INTERNATIONAL COMPETITIVE BIDDING (ICB)

1- The Government of the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan has received a loan related to Human Resources Development Project from the International Bank of Reconstruction and Development the World Bank and intends to apply part of proceeds of this loan to eligible payments for the supply of the goods and services covered by this invitation.

2- The Respective purchasers namely: Mu'tah University in Karak. hereby invite local and international suppliers of educational equipment to subject being taught in the Faculty of Education Sciences of MU to apply for bidding documents and to submit tenders (bids) for the equipment to be provided to the various laboratories, workshops and classrooms of the Faculty.

3- Interested eligible bidders may obtain further information and inspect the Bidding Documents at The Liaison Office of Yarmouk University located at the Higher Council for Science and Technology building inside the campus of the Royal Scientific Society, in Amman between hours 9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. Saturday through Wednesday beginning July 23, 1995 to Aug. 9, 1995.

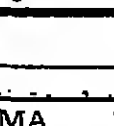
4- A complete set of Bidding Documents may be obtained from the above referred office upon submission of a written application and payment of a non-refundable fee. All payments will be made by a bank draft or certified bank check in the currency of the purchaser's choice or in cash made out in favour of the Yarmouk University. Price of purchasing the documents would be the equivalent amount of Jordanian Dinars as follows:

- For delivery to personal callers JD 15,000 per lot.
- For delivery by local mail to local Bidders by courier Service JD 25,000 per lot plus JD 50 for all lots.

Bids will be priced and submitted separately for each individual Lot. Contracts will be awarded on a Lot (by/Lot) basis to the lowest evaluated bidders who would prove capable to carry out the requirements of the contracts to be signed. Bidders could be awarded more than one contract of each.

Closing date for the bid submission will be noon of September 23, 1995. Bids shall have a validity of 90 days and will be accompanied by a bid security to the value of about 3% of the Bid Price and of duration of 120 days.

Yarmouk University



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Yarmouk University

Doohan powers to 1st Donington triumph

DONINGTON, England (AP) — World championship leader Mick Doohan powered his Honda to victory at the British 500cc Grand Prix Sunday and then admitted: "I didn't think I was going to catch Darryl Beattie."

A first win at Donington Park enabled Doohan to extend his championship lead to 15 points over fellow Australian Beattie, who finished second on a Suzuki.

But Doohan said: "Darryl deserves a lot of credit for the work he did at the start of the race."

"Darryl really took off and I thought it was going to be a tough task to catch him. Then when I did catch him, I thought it was going to be another job pulling away."

"But I am happy with the way the Honda has worked all weekend, particularly here at Donington, which has not been one of my favourite race tracks and possibly still isn't."

Beattie responded: "I rode as hard as I could at the start and made up some time on Mick and thought it was going to be good for a while."

"But Mick put in some good times and managed to get by me and I just couldn't reply."

American Scott Russell had been ruled out of the race following a crash in the morning warm-up session.

The former world superbike champion suffered head and wrist injuries after colliding with French rider Jean-Pierre Jeandat.

Russell, riding a Suzuki, hit Jeandat's Suzuki on the approach to the Esses at the end of the 20-minute untimed practice.

Both riders were taken to the circuit's medical centre and after treatment both withdrew from the Grand Prix, with Jeandat sustaining a broken wrist in the incident.

Colombia hammers U.S. to finish in third place

COPA AMERICA

MALDONADO, Uruguay (AP) — First-half goals by Luis Quinonez and Carlos Valderrama helped earn Colombia some revenge for their world cup setback as it beat the United States 4-1 late Saturday to take third place at the Copa America.

Quinonez gave Colombia at the lead in the 31st and Valderrama added his seven minutes later. After Faustino Asprilla scored on the rebound off keeper Rene Higuita's free kick off the crossbar in the 50th, Joe-Max Moore gave the Americans their only goal on a penalty in the 52nd.

Freddy Rincon completed the scoring in the 76th for the Colombians.

U.S. manager Steve Sampson made a number of changes to try out new players who had not played in the tournament, including Jovan Kirovski for striker Eric Wynalda, who was sidelined by an injury.

U.S. backs Paul Caligiuri and Mike Lapper failed to control the skillful Colombian midfield of Valderrama and Rincon, who repeatedly fed Quinonez and Asprilla.

Half an hour into the game, Quinonez scored from a pass by Asprilla and seven minutes later the veteran Valderrama made it 2-1, scoring over the head of keeper Kasey Keller from a pass by Quinonez.

Colombia coach Hernan Gomez said Saturday's result meant that "we can leave aside the word failure."

"We came hoping to end up among the top four. This result is reassuring for our future," he said.

The victory avenged the Colombians' 2-1 loss last year in the World Cup, a loss which eliminated the tournament favourites from the championship. Last month, Colombia played the Americans to a 0-0 draw in U.S. Cup '95, giving the United States the title in the four-team exhibition tournament.

ment. The Colombians finished second.

Sampson attributed his side's defeat to "our exhaustion after the gigantic match against Brazil" in the semifinals Friday, which the Americans lost 1-0.

"We fielded a lot of substitutes because of injuries, including Wynalda and Thomas Dooley," Sampson said. "With our full team the result might have been different."

Midfielder Tab Ramos was bitten by a spider, and the medicine he took caused an allergic reaction, Sampson said.

Ramos, who replaced Mike Sorber in the 37th minute, said "we were climbing step by step and hoping to reach the finals, but we stumbled against Brazil and our motivation to play for third place was not as high as in previous games."

Sampson, who was named as coach on an interim basis, said he hoped to continue to train the team, but would support any decision made by U.S. League President Alan Rothenberg, "even if he chooses a foreign coach."

Norway anti-nuclear protest fizzles out

OSLO (R) — A much-touted Norwegian protest against French nuclear testing turned into a whimper Saturday as Norway and France drew 0-0 in a friendly soccer match.

Most of the 12,000 spectators brandished leaflets with a "Non" printed inside a nuclear mushroom cloud as the French national anthem was played before the start of the match at Oslo's Ullevall Stadium.

But the crowd resorting to normal behaviour then happily cheered on the national team and failed to comply with calls from Norwegian players to chant anti-nuclear slogans, instead, activists, however, said

they were happy that most spectators had displayed the token protest against France's recent decision to resume nuclear testing in the Pacific.

"We are very pleased with tonight's campaign," said a woman activist handing out leaflets outside a gate. "Almost everyone came to us and said they wanted to hold a banner. It is all because of Lars Bohinen, who raised the issue."

Bohinen, a Norway and Nottingham Forest midfielder, made headlines when he

announced Tuesday that he would boycott the French match in protest at Paris' atomic policies.

The Norwegian Players' Council, led by team captain and goalkeeper Erik Thorstvedt, backed Bohinen's decision but shied away from own protests on the pitch apparently after a warning from FIFA, world soccer's governing body, not to mix sport and politics.

French team officials said the crowd protest had not influenced the match at all because it was done respectfully.

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Sports

Agassi nears 1st title as no. 1

WASHINGTON (AP) — Top-seeded Andre Agassi had his toughest match of the tournament Saturday holding off number 4 Todd Martin 6-4, 7-6 (7-5) in the semifinals of the \$675,000 ATP Washington Classic.

Agassi, who has yet to win a tournament since moving up to No. 1 in the computer rankings 14 weeks ago, will meet second-seeded Stefan Edberg in the final.

Edberg, the defending champion, defeated No. 13 Patrick Rafter of Australia 7-5, 5-7, 6-2 in the semifinals.

Sunday's match marks the first time since 1989 the top two seeds will meet in the finals of the 26-year-old event. Tim Mayotte and Brad Gilbert, the finalists on that occasion, were in attendance Saturday. Mayotte as an analyst for the Prime Network Telecast and Gilbert as Agassi's coach.

Unlike his three previous matches, in which he dropped just 15 of 51 games without losing a set, Agassi had problems with the 6-foot-6 (198-centimeter) Martin, the tallest player on the ATP Tour.

Agassi had control of the match in the first set, then ran into trouble in the second. Trailing 4-3, but still on service, Agassi fell behind love-40 before running off five straight points.

Agassi was then unable to convert six different

Washington
Classic

break opportunities in the next game before Martin finally managed to hold serve. Each player held service, setting up the tie breaker.

They split the first six points, then Agassi won three of the next five to wrap up the match.

"I don't think it's absolutely essential to play a tough match like this heading into the final," Agassi said. "If you can get all easy matches on the way to final, then it's great. I'm just glad to get out of this one with a win."

Martin had won three of eight previous meetings with Agassi.

"You don't have to play a perfect match to beat Andre — I made a number of mistakes and still felt I had a good chance to win," Martin said. "However, he's playing very well right now and has a lot of weapons. I'm pleased with the way I played this week, but I'm not happy with the result, of course."

Edberg broke Rafter's service often and early to earn his ninth victory in as many matches in the nation's capital.

After relatively easy victories in his first two match-

es, Edberg struggled in Friday's quarterfinals.

Following a 3-hour, 50-minute rain delay, he rallied from a 2-5 deficit in the final set to defeat unseeded Cristiano Caratti 6-4, 5-7, 7-6 (7-1).

In his match Saturday, Edberg took control against Rafter early, winning the first set, only to tire in the second as the 22-year-old Aussie found his second wind.

But Edberg opened the third set with consecutive breaks to take a 4-0 lead and was never headed in the 750th victory of his career, tops among active tour players.

"I was very tired at the end of the match. It's very tough physically and mentally to win here in Washington," Edberg said. "This is probably the hottest and most humid week of the year here, and sometimes you wonder what you're doing out there in the first place."

Rafter also said he felt the effects of having played late matches the previous night.

"I think what really hurt me was the fact I played doubles so late last night," said Rafter, whose doubles match with fellow Australian Mark Philippoussis lasted until 10:30 p.m. Friday (0230 GMT). "My shoulder and elbow were really hurting me, and I couldn't get anything into my serves."

Muster beats Apell to take 8th title of year

STUTTGART, Germany (AP) — French Open champion Thomas Muster completed a comeback victory over Sergi Bruguera Sunday and then swept past Jan Apell in the final of the Mercedes Cup for his eighth title of the season.

The hard part for the top-seeded Austrian came in the semifinals, when he battled over two days to oust third-seeded Sergi Bruguera, after saving four match points in the storm-interrupted showdown.

By contrast, it took Muster only 52 minutes to overwhelm Apell, who was playing his first singles final, 6-2, 6-2.

The semifinal was halted by a storm Saturday and had to be continued Sunday, before the final.

Bruguera was leading 7-6 (7-5), 5-3, with Muster serving at deuce when the match had to be abandoned.

Apell, the unseeded Swede ranked no. 101, beat Arnaud Boetsch of France 6-2, 6-4, Sunday morning to reach the final.

Muster and Bruguera are considered among the finest clay-court players and they thrilled the crowd Saturday with excellent tennis.

Muster won the French Open title in June, after Bruguera's two-year reign came to an end in the semifinals against Michael Chang.

The fourth-ranked Austrian had won seven titles this year, putting together an

Mercedes cup

amazing run of 40 straight victories in clay. The streak came to an end with a first-round loss to Alex Corretje July 10 in Gstaad, Switzerland.

Bruguera, ranked no. 11, needed surgery for a knee injury he sustained at the Stuttgart Indoor tournament in February and missed nearly seven weeks of tennis.

The Spaniard, who says he is still not at the top of his game after the surgery, raced to a 5-1 lead in the second set after winning the first set Saturday.

Muster saved two match points to hold for 5-2, carried by sheer will power. He finally broke Bruguera for 5-3 and saved two more match points in the next game to level at deuce, just as the thunder storm swept over Stuttgart and forced the match to be halted.

While he appeared tired and listless Saturday, Muster was a different man Sunday.

He held serve, broke Bruguera when the third-seeded Spaniard was serving for the match and won the tiebreaker 7-5. Muster rolled over a dispirited Bruguera in the third set to complete a 6-7 (5-7), 7-6 (7-5), 6-2 victory. Over two days, the match lasted 2:44.



Thomas Muster

Norris taken
to hospital
after bout

LONDON (R) — American Orlin Norris was taken to hospital after losing his World Boxing Association (WBA) cruiserweight title in an eighth-round knockout by compatriot Nate Miller on Saturday.

Texas Norris, 29, was counted out by English referee John Coyle, then received oxygen as he stayed on the canvas, before being carried out of the London Arena on a stretcher.

Norris was taken to the Royal London Hospital but a British Boxing Board doctor later said the American was sitting up and talking, although he would be kept in overnight.

After Norris went to hospital, Briton Nigel Benn retained his World Boxing Council (WBC) super-middleweight title when he stopped Vincenzo Nardiello of Italy.

GOREN BRIDGE

WITH OMAR SHARIF
A TANNIAH HUSSEIN
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SILENCE IS GOLDEN

Both vulnerable, South deals.

NORTH

♠ 7 6 4

♥ A K

♦ A R T 5

♣ A J 10 9

WEST

♠ K Q 9

♥ Q 10

♦ Q J 10 6

♣ 8 4 3 2

SOUTH

♠ A J 10 8 5 3 2

♥ 8 4

♦ K Q 5

The bidding:

South West North East

3 ♠ Pass 6 ♠ Pass

Pass Dbl Pass Pass

Pass

Opening lead: Queen of ♠.

If your opponents have never

made a doubled contract against

you, you are not doubting enough.

However, refrain from doubling if,

in so doing, you might give declarer

a blueprint of the hand.

Since South's vulnerable preempt

promised about seven tricks, North

added in five tricks and made the

value bid by jumping directly to six

spades. West, confident of two

trump tricks, wielded the ace.

West led the queen of diamonds

and as soon as dummy appeared it

was obvious to declarer that West's

double had to be based on the expec-

tancy of two trump tricks. To avoid

that declarer needed to engineer an

endplay. South's trump length had

to be reduced to the same as West's,

which could be accomplished only if

West held specifically four cards in

each minor suit.

After winning the first trick with

the king of diamonds, declarer

crashed the ace and ruffed a diamond

in hand. A club to the nine furnished

the entry for another diamond ruff.

The king of clubs was cashed, the

queen was overtaken with the ace

and a club was ruffed.

Next came the ace of hearts, then

the king was trumped to reduce both

South and West to three cards each,

all spades. Declarer exited with the

jack of spades and West was help-

less. Forced to win with the queen,

West had to lead a trump away from

K 9 into declarer's A 10 tenace.

West was greedy. The double

stood to gain 100 points. Instead, it

cost 1,000. Declarer would never

have adopted such an unusual line

had West not given away the show.

Davenport Salvages draw for the U.S.

WILMINGTON, North Carolina (Agencies) — The United States needed a shot in the arm after Mary Pierce opened the Fed Cup tennis semifinal with a victory for France and Lindsay Davenport came out with her guns blazing Saturday.

The 1.88 metre, 19-year-old Davenport blasted 38 winners past Julie Halard to help the Americans salvage a 1-1 tie after opening singles of the World Group semis.

The ninth-ranked Davenport used punishing groundstrokes to get past Halard with a tight 7-6 7-5 win at Trask Coliseum at the University of North Carolina-Wilmington.

"I knew that this was a match we needed to win," said Davenport, who will play Pierce in the reverse singles.

Australian Open champion and world number four Pierce had given France the early lead with a 7-6 6-3 win over Mary Joe Fernandez.

The 26th-ranked Halard set up 12 double faults and committed 33 unforced errors in her failed attempt to give France a commanding 2-0 lead.

"I knew that when the match got close that she tended to tighten up," said Davenport, who raced through the first-set tie-break without dropping a point.



Lindsay Davenport

Like Davenport, Pierce used a big serve and booming forehand to set up easy winners.

She broke Fernandez's serve six times as the 13th-ranked American produced 39 unforced errors.

After dominating the opening tie-break 7-1, Pierce

rolled out to a 4-0 second-set lead.

"She made some easy mistakes at the start of the second set," said the U.S.-raised Pierce, whose mother is French. "I knew I couldn't let her back in the match then."

The winner of the tie will

face either defending champions Spain for the title.

Spain qualified for the final of the Sunday after taking a unassailable 3-1 lead in the World Group semi-final against Germany.

Japan gets berth in World Group

Japan Saturday swept the five-game Group I playoff of the Fed Cup World Group, winning four singles matches and one doubles match over Canada.

Japan was assured a berth in the eight-nation World Group in next year's Fed Cup, while Canada dropped to the lower division of Group I.

Kimiko Date, ranked sixth in the world, rallied after dropping the first set to beat Patricia Hy-Bulais. 72nd in the world, 3-6, 6-4, 6-1 in Saturday's first singles match.

Then Naoko Sawamatsu fought through three sets before beating Jana Nejedly 6-4, 4-6, 6-3 in the second singles match at Dai Dome in Gifu Memorial Centre in central Japan.

The Japanese pair Kyoko Nagatsuka and Ai Sugiyama defeated the Canadian pair of Rene Simpson and Jill Hetherington 5-7, 6-3, 6-4.

Japan won two singles matches on the opening day, Friday.

NEWS IN BRIEF

Cambodia loses 1-4 to the Chinese

PHNOM PENH (AFP) — In its first football match in more than 20 years, Cambodia lost 1-4 to a team from the southeastern Chinese city of Shenzhen here Sunday. Cambodia were trailing 3-1 at half-time but the loudest cheer from a big crowd was reserved for Cambodian forward Sok Try, who scored the side's only goal from close range midway through the half. The match was a milestone in Cambodia's return to international sport which will culminate at the Olympic Games in Atlanta, Georgia, next year. The Cambodians are also building up for their first appearance at the South East Asian Games in Chang Mai, Thailand, in December.

Bosnia-Herzegovina play 1st soccer match

DUSSELDORF, Germany (AFP) — Bosnia-Herzegovina played its first full international soccer match here Saturday, earning a 2-2 draw with German first division newcomers Fortuna. Some 7,000 of the 10,000 crowd were Bosnians, roaring on their team who recently received official recognition by world soccer's ruling body, FIFA, and its European arm, UEFA.

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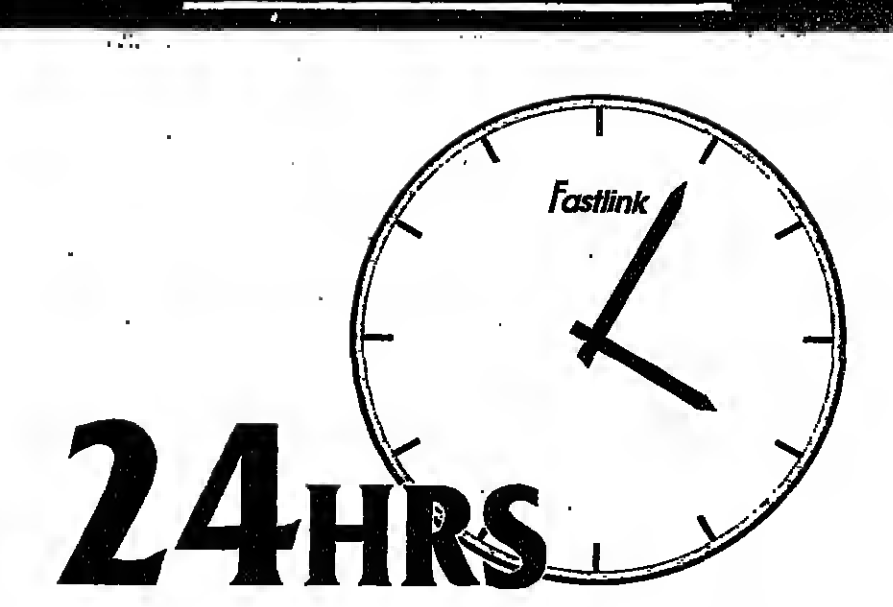
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OIC states to offer military aid to Bosnia — Iran

Contact group to examine Sarajevo's defensive needs

NICOSIA (Agencies) — Iranian Foreign Minister Ali Akbar Velayati said foreign ministers of Islamic countries pledged in a private meeting in Geneva last week to give military assistance to Bosnian Muslims.

Another senior Iranian official, parliament speaker Ali Akbar Nateq-Nuri, sharply criticised Friday's London conference on Bosnia, saying on Sunday that it had given Bosnia's Serbs a green light to continue attacks against Muslims.

Mr. Velayati, in remarks made on Saturday and quoted by Iran radio, said: "At its meeting, the Islamic

Contact Group openly stressed that Bosnia has the right, like any other country, to defend itself and to have weapons."

The Foreign Ministers of Turkey, Pakistan, Iran, Morocco, Saudi Arabia, Senegal, Egypt and Malaysia, which form the Organisation of the Islamic Conference (OIC) contact group on Bosnia, declared at the Geneva meeting that the U.N. arms embargo on Bosnia was "invalid."

Malaysian Prime Minister Mahathir Mohamad said Sunday that Malaysia is willing to sell arms to Bosnian government forces to back

the OIC stand that the embargo was "invalid."

"We will sell (weapons) ... at the same time, we will also supply more weapons to our peacekeepers because our troops are not well-equipped unlike the NATO soldiers," Mahathir was reported as saying by the local Sunday Times.

Mr. Mahathir slammed the arms embargo as violating the Bosnians' right to defend themselves and accused NATO and the U.N. of double standards.

"While NATO and the U.N. forbid the supply of arms to all parties, the Serbs

are being supplied with weapons and oil to attack the Bosnians, he charged.

"They are allowing the slaughtering of Bosnians by the Serbs. I have never seen such injustice in this world," Mr. Mahathir said.

Mr. Velayati said: "... a number of the foreign ministers of the Islamic countries taking part in the Geneva meeting made a commitment, at a private meeting that took place at the end of the Geneva meeting, to lend defence assistance to Bosnia."

He did not name the countries or say what type of

assistance was expected to reach the Bosnian Muslims.

"Islamic countries object to the West's stance on Bosnia and consider it to be unfair," the Iranian minister added in his remarks on Iran Radio, monitored by the British Broadcasting Corporation (BBC).

Bosnian Foreign Minister Mohammed Sacirbey, who attended the Geneva meeting, said he had been given pledges of weaponry and that military chiefs and defence ministers from the 51-member OIC would be meeting to work out details of help to his country.

The Iranian parliament speaker, in remarks on Iran television monitored by the BBC, said:

"The behaviour of the United Nations and the Security Council shows that they themselves want the Muslims to be driven out of Bosnia-Herzegovina, and that they approve of the crimes committed by the Serbs through their silence."

The London conference threatened retaliation against Bosnian Serbs if they attacked the Gorazde enclave.

Mr. Nateq-Nuri said: "What this means is that they have given their approval to

the slaughter of the Muslims of the cities of Srebrenica and Zepa and approval of Serb crimes throughout Bosnia-Herzegovina."

Mr. Velayati said that the OIC contact group will meet soon to study the "defensive needs" of the Bosnian Muslims.

Defence ministers and military chiefs-of-staff from the group and other Islamic countries with peacekeepers in Bosnia would need "to hold talks to examine the defensive needs of Bosnian Muslims and ways of providing help," Mr. Velayati said without giving a date.

Russian, Chechen delegates sign military deal

GROZNY (Agencies) — Russian and Chechen negotiators signed a military deal on Sunday in talks to end a bloody conflict in rebel Chechnya, but there was still no word of a deal on political issues which lie at the heart of the conflict.

"We have signed a deal on military issues," said Russian Interior Minister Anatoly Kulikov, speaking at the end of Sunday's talks in Chechen regional capital Grozny.

"We have started the process of exchanging prisoners, resuming radio communication (between the Russian army and Chechen fighters) and working out the mechanism of disarmament," Mr. Kulikov said.

Russian soldiers and Chechen rebels are said to be holding hundreds of prisoners. Delegates are due to visit a Russian filtration camp on Monday where they say about 1,000 Chechen fighters are being held.

Both sides said a statement on a long-awaited political agreement could be signed during negotiations Monday.

Chechen leader Dzhokhar Dudayev, however, cast new doubt on the talks' prospects during a clandestine television broadcast.

"These talks have not yielded anything positive so far, and they will hardly yield anything because they are in the hands of hair-splitters," Mr. Dudayev said in the broadcast Saturday night.

Usman Imaev, the top negotiator representing Mr. Dudayev's separatist forces, has said for days that an agreement is just around the corner, but the talks keep hitting snags.

Mr. Imaev was quoted by the ITAR-TASS news agency Sunday as saying, "a communiqué on a bloc of political questions will possibly be signed July 24." The report gave no details on the contents of the communiqué.

Mr. Imaev's Russian counterpart, Vyacheslav Mikhailov, said talks Sunday were "productive" and would continue early Monday. He, too, said he hoped a political communiqué could be signed Monday.

Although negotiators have made clear progress resolving military and other issues, a political pact has stalled for weeks over the question of Chechnya's future status in relation to the Russian Federation.

The Chechen separatists, who declared independence in 1991, want that independence recognised by Moscow. The Kremlin insists the republic remain part of Russia, but is willing to let the question wait until after elections and a referendum on a Chechen constitution, planned for the fall.

Mr. Dudayev said Saturday, "there are no forces in the world that could break the will of the Chechen people and put it in the stable of Russia again."

Also on Saturday, President Boris Yeltsin reportedly urged the Russian side to make its stand "tougher." And Chechen delegates expressed anger at a remark by Russian negotiator Arkady Volosky implying that Chechnya had little choice but to remain in Russia.

Mr. Yeltsin sent thousands of troops into Chechnya in December.



SEEKING REFUGEE — A U.N. soldier besieged town of Srebrenica. Thousands helps a Bosnian refugee who arrived at of Bosnian Muslims have sought shelter at the U.N. air base in Tuzla after fleeing the U.N. refugee camps (AFP photo)

3 Americans detained in Hebron remain jailed

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM (AP) — Three American peace activists were kept in jail Sunday after they refused to sign a promise to stay out of the West Bank city of Hebron for two months.

The three Americans were detained on Saturday by the army after they violated army closure orders and forced open a sealed gate to the Islamic college in Hebron.

Cliff Kindy of North Manchester, Indiana, was ordered to pay 5,000 shekel (\$1,700) bail and sign a promise not to return to Hebron for two months.

The two women, Kathy Kamphoefner, also of North Manchester, and Wendy Lehman from Kidron, Ohio, were told to pay a 1,000

shekel (\$340) bail and a sign a similar pledge.

They all refused and police decided to keep them in jail until Monday, said West Bank police spokesman Boaz Goldenberg. Under Israeli law, a person can be held for 48 hours before charges must be filed.

An Israeli woman detained with the group was also kept in jail after refusing to sign the pledge.

Mr. Goldenberg said they would all be brought before a magistrate on Monday.

The army detained the four on Saturday and handed them over to police after they entered a closed military zone and knocked down a gate to the Islamic College.

Kuwait to sign human rights pacts

KUWAIT (R) — The Kuwaiti government said on Sunday it planned to sign three international human rights conventions including one against torture and would ask parliament to approve the measure.

"These agreements aim to protect the general rights of citizens and combat torture and other forms of maltreatment," a statement by the cabinet of the Gulf state said.

It said it had sent the assembly draft laws stipulating that Kuwait accede to the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights and the U.N. Convention Against Torture and Other cruel, Inhuman or De-

grading Treatment or Punishment.

Human rights experts say the bills, if ratified by parliament, will require Kuwait periodically to give a public accounting to U.N. committees overseeing compliance with the pacts.

This will permit further international scrutiny of Kuwait's rights record following heightened interest in the issue after its 1991 liberation from Iraqi occupation, they say.

"It's a major step," a diplomat said. "If the measures go through, no one will ever again be able to tell us 'this is our internal affair.'"

Israel shells S. Lebanon; Hizbollah retaliates

MARJAYOUN, Lebanon (Agencies) — Guerrillas fired a salvo of Katyusha rockets Sunday on an Israeli outpost in the border enclave of the Jewish state occupies in South Lebanon, security sources reported.

The sources, speaking on condition of anonymity, said at least six rockets hit the post in the village of Beit Yahoun in the so-called "security zone."

There was no immediate word of casualties in the 5 a.m. attack, the sources said. The attack triggered an Israeli artillery and tank bombardment of suspected guerrilla hideouts in Shiite Muslim villages north of the zone. There were no reports of casualties.

Earlier Sunday, Israeli tanks and artillery shelled Shiite villages in the Iqlim Al-Tuffah, or apple province, near the southern market town of Nabatiyeh where guerrillas of Hizbollah, or Party of God, maintain major strongholds.

No casualties were reported from the shelling either.

There was no responsibility claim for Sunday's Katyusha attack. But Hizbollah, which spearheads a guerrilla campaign to drive their Israelis and their militia allies out of the occupied zone, frequently unleashes rockets on its foes.

Meanwhile, a radical Palestinian guerrilla leader in South Lebanon on Sunday promised Israel rocket attacks and suicide bombings if it carried out threats to wipe out Arab guerrilla groups.

"About their (Israelis) claims they will wipe out factions and groups, we say we are a revolution and the revolution will continue until the Jews are removed from the land of Palestine and the Arab land," Lieutenant-Colonel Munir Maqdash said.

Mr. Maqdash, former commander of PLO chief Yasser Arafat's main Fatah group

forces in Lebanon but who now heads a small splinter faction, was responding to remarks made last week by Israel's top peace negotiator with Lebanon Uri Lubrani.

Mr. Lubrani was quoted by Beirut newspapers on Friday as saying on a visit to Israel's occupation zone in South Lebanon that Hizbollah, Lebanon's anti-Israel Muslim militant group, and Palestinian guerrilla factions "will be wiped out from existence before peace is reached" between Israel and Arab states.

"We will fight with all means until the (Israeli) occupier is removed. The more tyranny increases against our Palestinian people and our Arab and Islamic Nation, any means (of struggle) becomes permissible for us," said the bearded Madhah, who is bitterly opposed to the 1993 PLO-Israeli peace accords.

"We will continue our struggle everywhere using all means starting with the rifle, to rocket fire to human bombs," Maqdash told reporters at a training base near the southern Lebanese port of Sidon. He was flanked by hooded gunmen brandishing AK-47 assault rifles.

Asked if his Lebanon-based fighters would rocket northern Israeli settlements in retaliation to any Israeli attacks, Mr. Maqdash replied: "We promise the settlements with heavy firing. God willing heavy firing like they have never seen before."

Hizbollah (Party of God) guerrillas and Palestinian fighters have in the past unleashed salvos of Soviet-made Katyusha rockets on Israel whenever Israeli bombardment of southern Lebanon caused civilian casualties.

Mr. Arafat relieved Mr. Maqdash of his duties as head of Fatah forces in Lebanon after he lambasted the Palestinian Liberation Organisation chief for signing the peace pact with Israel.

Abbas returns to W. Bank after 47 years

RAFAT, West Bank (AFP) — Mahmoud Abbas, the Palestinian who negotiated and signed the PLO's peace accord with Israel in 1993, returned to the occupied West Bank after 47 years' exile on Sunday.

Mr. Abbas, 59, also known as Abu Mazen, moved into a rented hillside villa in the village of Rafat, near Ramallah, 12 kilometres north of Jerusalem.

"I am happy to have returned to my homeland," said Mr. Abbas, who was reluctant to talk about his immediate plans. "My activities here will conform to my position as a member of the PLO executive committee," he told AFP.

Mr. Abbas is still officially head of the Palestinian negotiating committee with Israel but has hardly played a role in the peace process since the signature of the Declaration of Principles on the White House lawn on Sept. 13, 1993.

He said he would not return to Washington to sign an accord on the next phase of Palestinian self-rule when the two sides, still negotiating to narrow their differences, reached agreement.

However, he played down his differences with PLO leader Yasser Arafat, which have left him out of the negotiations for the past two years. "There is nothing political. It was a question of procedure," he said.

Mr. Abbas, who has lived in Tunis for the past few years, met Mr. Arafat in Gaza city last week before returning to the West Bank.

Nigeria junta hints at clemency in coup plot

LAGOS (R) — South African President Nelson Mandela's envoy left Nigeria on Sunday with assurances that clemency for convicted coup plotters was under consideration, a government official said.

South African Deputy President Thabo Mbeki was told at a dinner on Saturday by Lieutenant-General Odiyo Diya, number two in the ruling council that the national defence council would meet on Tuesday to consider clemency appeals for 40 people convicted in a secret trial that provoked international outrage.

"Mbeki was told they will consider the appeals and make their recommendations to the PRC (Provisional ruling council)," one official said.

The assurance came the same day that a government spokesman said military ruler General Sani Abacha might

consider clemency.

"There is every reason to believe that Abacha will be very sympathetic to these pleas by the international community," spokesman David Atiah was quoted as saying in Thursday's newspaper.

"He is a very compassionate person. I have every reason to believe that he is going to look at each case on its merit and take definite steps to perhaps temper justice with mercy."

The authorities have not made public the coup sentences, which are subject to the confirmation of the PRC chaired by Mr. Abacha.

Among those found guilty was a former head of state, retired general Oluasegun Obasanjo. Every coup trial in Nigeria since the first failed coup attempt in 1976 has resulted in executions.

Mr. Mbeki left Abuja after

three days in the Nigerian capital trying to persuade Mr. Abacha to show clemency to the plotters.

Concern over Nigeria's human rights record was heightened with the execution of 43 armed robbery convicts on Saturday — the largest number to go before a firing squad for decades.

The government said the executions, carried out in groups at the Kirikiri maximum security prison on the outskirts of Lagos and watched by a crowd of about 1,000, were intended to crack down on an upsurge in violent crime.

Local human rights groups condemned the executions, saying they would not curb crime in a nation going through its worst social, economic and political crisis in two decades.

The West African nation has been in turmoil since the

army annulled a presidential vote in 1993 which was supposed to restore democracy.

Moshood Abiola, the businessman believed to have won the election, is in jail while on trial for treason. Mr. Abacha, who seized power last November after the annulment, has promised to announce a timetable in October for a transition to civilian rule.

The Campaign for Democracy Alliance said in a statement that Saturday's executions were inhuman, noting that the 43 bodies were taken away in a rubbish truck.

Mr. Abdul Oroh, director of Civil Liberties Organisation, told Reuters: "We have been executing robbers since the early 1970s and we are still having armed robbery."

Mr. Executions will make the robbers harder and more violent," said Mr. Oroh.

S. Africa's black parties set for showdown

ULUNDI, South Africa (R) — Chief Mangosuthu Buthelezi's Inkatha Freedom Party (IFP) urging Zulus to reject the "autocracy" of South African President Nelson Mandela's African National Congress (ANC) resolved on Sunday to call an early election in Kwazulu-Natal province if its draft provincial constitution is not adopted in August.

"My support is far above what was reflected in the last election," Mr. Buthelezi told reporters after a two-day strategy conference outside the Zulu stronghold of Ulundi.

"If there is an impasse because people cannot resolve the issue of (provincial constitution) through negotiations, then the only other alternative is to go for elections," he said.

He said he would expect his party to win more than two thirds of the vote and with it the power to adopt its own constitution provid-

ing for maximum provincial autonomy — the issue at the centre of his dispute with Mr. Mandela.

Inkatha sources said a provincial election could be held as early as November. National and provincial elections in South Africa are not due until 1999, but party sources said the transitional constitution provided for an early election if there was a vote of no confidence in a provincial government.

Buthelezi, a prince of the eight million-strong Zulu nation, won 10 per cent of the national vote in South Africa's first all-race elections in April last year.

His Zulu-based Inkatha Freedom Party won just over 50 per cent of the vote in his homeland province of Kwazulu-Natal.

More than 1,100 people have died in the political turf war between Inkatha and the ANC since last year's democracy polls.

Mr. Buthelezi told sever-

al thousand delegates to Inkatha's annual conference on Saturday he would never accept central government authority in his homeland province.

"It might be that we are left with no option but to go back to the people for a fresh mandate ... so that we can secure a constitution for this province, or lose the entire stake in this gamble," he said.

The Inkatha delegates resolved: "Should the provincial legislature fail for any reason to adopt a constitution, the provincial government to seek a fresh and substantial mandate ... through provincial elections."

"Conference calls on all the people of the kingdom to choose between ANC autocracy, centralism and authoritarianism on the one hand and IFP freedom, federalism and pluralism on the other."

Inkatha secretary-

general Ziba Jiyane told reporters elections could be avoided if smaller parties backed Inkatha's constitution, which is due to be presented at the next sitting of the provincial parliament in August.

Mr. Buthelezi said he would remain as minister of home affairs in Mr. Mandela's cabinet despite calls by some members of his party before the conference started to return to Kwazulu-Natal.

"For the moment, the position is as it is," he said. Mr. Mandela and Buthelezi have been at loggerheads for the past year over issues including responsibility for a pre-election massacre of Inkatha marchers outside the ANC head office.

A row over who should pay the influential Zulu tribal chiefs and headmen, seen as key to the support of traditionalist peasants, has been submitted to the constitutional court.

Hawke marries his biographer

SYDNEY (R) — Former Australian Prime Minister Bob Hawke married his biographer, Blanche D'Alpuget, Sunday as his former wife of 38 years, Hazel, marked the occasion with a "freedom party" at the family home. A crowd of reporters, gawkers, 30-Burmese student demonstrators and a group of people protesting against aircraft noise jostled outside as Hawke and D'Alpuget exchanged vows at the Ritz-Carlton Hotel in the upmarket Sydney suburb of Double Bay. The newlyweds were rushed by the media as they emerged from the hotel with guests, including Deputy Prime Minister Kim Beazley, and boarded a double-decker bus for a short journey to a nearby Italian restaurant for the reception. "Did I cry?" said Hawke, who has a reputation for being emotional. "I had a couple of tears in my eyes, which Blanche said were very nice. But I had a new experience today. I started to water from the nose a bit."

Hawke, 65, met the blonde D'Alpuget, 51, at an embassy party in Jakarta in 1970 when she was married to an Australian diplomat and he was the head of the Australian Council of Trade Unions. A novelist, she wrote his biography in 1979.

Prague physicist says he is Einstein's son

NEW YORK (AFP) — A 63-year-old physicist in Prague claims he is the son of Albert Einstein; who was switched at birth and was only informed of his identity in 1972. The New York Times reported Saturday. "I may not be able to prove it, but I know I am his son," Ludek Zakal said. "I cannot profit from being Einstein's son. I can only lose money. I cannot reverse the course of my life or change it in any way. So why would I lie?" Zakal said. He claimed he was told in 1972 by a friend of Einstein's step-daughter that his real mother was Einstein's second wife, Elsa, and that he was raised by a woman whose child died the day he was born. Zakal, who is pursuing research based on Einstein's work, bears a strong physical resemblance to the scientist noted for his theory of relativity and has said he would be willing to undergo a DNA test to check his claim. According to the report, Zakal's tale centres on written but unverified statements of two nurses who have been dead for years, the solemn vow of a possible half-sister, and the signed statement of his 93-year-old mother who is no longer willing to speak about the matter.

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